



W O R K S

OF

Samuel Johnson, LL D.

A NEW EDITION,

IN TWELVE VOLUMES

WITH

AN ESSAY ON HIS LIFE AND GENIUS,

BY ARTHUR MURPHY, Esq

VOLUME THE SECOND

*135-117-1715*  
LONDON

*Printed by Luke Hansard & Sons, at the Lincoln's Inn Fields*

For J Nichol & Son F & C Rivington Otridge & Son A St Alban Legl &  
Solihby G & C & B n T Tra ne W Lowndes G Tidons n Wille  
& R b son C Davis T Egerton Scatclerd & Letterm n J Walker;  
Ve n r Hol & Sharpe R Lea Dart i & Harvey J Ninn Lack gt n  
Allen & Co J Stockd lo J C thell Clarke & Sons G Keasley C Law  
J White & Co L gman Hurst Rees & Orme Ca tell & Da ies J B tker  
Jol Richardson J M Fichardson J Booker J C rpenter B Crosby  
E Jeffery J Mur ay W Miller J & A Arch Black Pa ry &  
Kingsbury S Bagster J Ha dng J Mackinlay J Hatcha d R H E ans  
Matthews & Legl J Mawm n J Bootl J Asperne R Scholev  
R Baldwin J F lder Sherwood Neely & J nes J Johns n & Co n d  
T Underwood—Dei bton & Son at C mbridge a d Wil on & Son at York



# CONTENTS

## TO THE SECOND VOLUME.

### PHILOLOGICAL TRACTS

	page
<i>THE Plan of an English Dictionary</i> -	3
<i>Preface to the English Dictionary</i> -	31
<i>Miscellaneous Observations on the Tragedy of Mac-</i> <i>beth, &amp;c</i> - - - -	69
<i>Proposals for printing the Works of Shakspeare</i>	121
<i>Preface to Ditto</i> - - - -	133
<i>General Observations on Shakspeare's Plays</i>	197
<i>Account of the Harleian Library</i> - -	227
<i>Essay on the Origin and Importance of Fugitive</i> <i>Pieces</i> - - - - -	240
<i>Account of the Life of Benvenuto Cellini</i> -	250
<i>View of the Controversy between Crousaz and War-</i> <i>burton</i> - - - - -	254
<i>Preliminary Discourse to the London Chronicle,</i> <i>1757</i> - - - - -	259
<i>Introduction to the World displayed</i> -	261
<i>Preface to the Preceptor</i> - - - -	291
<i>Preface to Rolt's Dictionary</i> - -	312
<i>Preface to the Translation of Father Lobo's Voyage</i>	321
<i>Essay on Epitaphs</i> - - - -	326

## POLITICAL ESSAYS.

	<i>page</i>
<i>Observations on the State of Affairs in 1756</i>	337
<i>Introduction to the Political State of Great Britain</i>	350

## MISCELLANEOUS ESSAYS

<i>Review of Memoirs of the Court of Augustus</i>	375
<i>Review of Four Letters from Sir Isaac Newton to Dr. Bentley</i> - - - - -	384
<i>Review of a Journal of Eight Days Journey from Portsmouth to Kingston-upon-Thames, &amp;c</i> -	389
<i>Reply to a Paper in the Gazetteer</i> - -	405
<i>Review of an Essay on the Writings and Genius of Pope</i> - - - - -	413
<i>Introduction to the Proceedings of the Committee for clothing French Prisoners of War</i> -	424
<i>On the Brazeny of the English Common Soldiers</i>	427
<i>Considerations on the Plans for the Construction of Black Friars Bridge</i> - - - -	431
<i>Some Thoughts on Agriculture, Ancient and Modern</i>	440
<i>Further Thoughts on Agriculture</i> - -	447
<i>The Vision of Theodore, the Hermit of Teneriffe</i>	454

PHILOLOGICAL  
T R A C T S



THE  
P L A N  
OF AN  
ENGLISH DICTIONARY

To the Right Honourable  
PHILIP DORMER Earl of CHESTERFIELD,  
One of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State

MY LORD,

WHEN first I undertook to write an *English* Dictionary, I had no expectation of any higher patronage than that of the proprietors of the copy, nor prospect of any other advantage than the price of my labour. I knew that the work in which I engaged is generally considered as drudgery for the blind, as the proper toil of artless industry, a task that requires neither the light of learning, nor the activity of genius but may be successfully performed without any higher quality than that of bearing burthens with dull patience, and beating the track of the alphabet with sluggish resolution.

Whether this opinion, so long transmitted, and so widely propagated had its beginning from truth and nature, or from accident and prejudice, whether it be decreed by the authority of reason, or

the tyranny of ignorance, that of all the candidates for literary praise, the unhappy lexicographer holds the lowest place, neither vanity nor interest incited me to inquire. It appeared that the province allotted me was, of all the regions of learning, generally confessed to be the least delightful, that it was believed to produce neither fruits nor flowers; and that, after a long and laborious cultivation, not even the barren laurel \* had been found upon it

Yet on this province, my Lord, I entered, with the pleasing hope, that, as it was low, it likewise would be safe. I was drawn forward with the prospect of employment, which, though not splendid, would be useful, and which, though it could not make my life envied, would keep it innocent; which would awaken no passion, engage me in no contention, nor throw in my way any temptation to disturb the quiet of others by censure, or my own by flattery

I had read indeed of times, in which princes and statesmen thought it part of their honour to promote the improvement of their native tongues, and in which dictionaries were written under the protection of greatness. To the patrons of such undertakings I willingly paid the homage of believing that they, who were thus solicitous for the perpetuity of their language, had reason to expect that their actions would be celebrated by posterity, and that

\* Lord Orrery, in a letter to Dr Birch, mentions this as one of the very few inaccuracies in this admirable address, the *laurel* not being *barren* in any sense, but bearing fruits and flowers  
Boswell's Life, vol. i. p. 160. Edit. 1804.

the eloquence which they promoted would be employed in their praise. But I considered such acts of beneficence as prodigies recorded rather to raise wonder than expectation, and content with the terms that I had stipulated, had not suffered my imagination to flatter me with any other encouragement, when I found that my design had been thought by your Lordship of importance sufficient to attract your favour.

How far this unexpected distinction can be rated among the happy incidents of life I am not yet able to determine. Its first effect has been to make me anxious lest it should fix the attention of the publick too much upon me, and, as it once happened to an epick poet of *France*, by raising the reputation of the attempt, obstruct the reception of the work. I imagine what the world will expect from a scheme, prosecuted under your Lordship's influence, and I know that expectation, when her wings are once expanded, easily reaches heights which performance never will attain, and when she has mounted the summit of perfection, derides her follower, who dies in the pursuit.

Not therefore to raise expectation, but to repress it I here lay before your Lordship the Plan of my undertaking that more may not be demanded than I intend, and that, before it is too far advanced to be thrown into a new method, I may be advertised of its defects or superfluities. Such informations I may justly hope, from the emulation with which those who desire the praise of elegance or discernment, must contend in the promotion of a design

that you, my Lord, have not thought unworthy to share your attention with treaties and with wars

In the first attempt to methodise my ideas I found a difficulty, which extended itself to the whole work. It was not easy to determine by what rule of distinction the words of this Dictionary were to be chosen. The chief intent of it is to preserve the purity and ascertain the meaning of the *English* idiom, and this seems to require nothing more than that our language be considered, so far as it is our own, that the words and phrases used in the general intercourse of life, or found in the works of those whom we commonly style polite writers, be selected, without including the terms of particular professions; since, with the arts to which they relate, they are generally derived from other nations, and are very often the same in all the languages of this part of the world. This is, perhaps, the exact and pure idea of a grammatical dictionary; but in lexicography, as in other arts, naked science is too delicate for the purposes of life. The value of a work must be estimated by its use: it is not enough that a dictionary delights the critick, unless, at the same time, it instructs the learner; as it is to little purpose that an engine amuses the philosopher by the subtilty of its mechanism, if it requires so much knowledge in its application as to be of no advantage to the common workman.

The title which I prefix to my work has long conveyed a very miscellaneous idea, and they that take a dictionary into their hands have been accustomed to expect from it a solution of almost every difficulty.

difficulty If foreign words therefore were rejected, it could be little regarded, except by criticks, or those who aspire to criticism, and however it might enlighten those that write, would be all darkness to them that only read The unlearned much oftener consult their dictionaries for the meaning of words, than for their structures or formations, and the words that most want explanation are generally terms of art, which, therefore, experience has taught my predecessors to spread with a kind of pompous luxuriance over their productions

The academicians of *France*, indeed, rejected terms of science in their first essay, but found afterwards a necessity of relaxing the rigour of their determination, and, though they would not naturalize them at once by a single act, permitted them by degrees to settle themselves among the natives with little opposition, and it would surely be no proof of judgment to impute them in an error which they have now retracted, and deprive the book of its chief use by scrupulous distinctions

Of such words, however, all are not equally to be considered as parts of our language, for some of them are naturalized and incorporated, but others still continue aliens, and are rather auxiliaries than subjects This naturalization is produced either by an admission into common speech, in some metaphorical signification, which is the acquisition of a kind of property among us, as we say the *zenith* of advancement, the *meridian* of life, the *cynosure*\* of neighbouring eyes, or it is the consequence of

\* Milton

long intermixture and frequent use, by which the ear is accustomed to the sound of words till their original is forgotten, as in *equator*, *satellites*, or of the change of a foreign to an *English* termination, and a conformity to the laws of the speech into which they are adopted, as in *category*, *cachery*, *peripneumony*.

Of those which still continue in the state of aliens, and have made no approaches toward assimilation, some seem necessary to be retained, because the purchasers of the Dictionary will expect to find them. Such are many words in the common law, as *capias*, *habeas corpus*, *præmunire*,  *nisi prius* such are some terms of controversial divinity, as *hypostasis*, and of physick, as the names of diseases, and in general, all terms which can be found in books not written professedly upon particular arts, or can be supposed necessary to those who do not regularly study them. Thus, when a reader not skilled in physick happens in *Milton* upon this line,

- - - pining atrophy,  
Marasmus, and wide-wasting pestilence,

he will, with equal expectation, look into his dictionary for the word *marasmus*, as for *atrophy*, or *pestilence*, and will have reason to complain if he does not find it.

It seems necessary to the completion of a dictionary designed not merely for criticks, but for popular use, that it should comprise, in some degree, the peculiar words of every profession; that the terms of war and navigation should be inserted, so far as they can be required by readers of travels, and of history;

history, and those of law, merchandize, and mechanical trades, so far as they can be supposed useful in the occurrences of common life.

But there ought, however, to be some distinction made between the different classes of words, and therefore it will be proper to print those which are incorporated into the language in the usual character, and those which are still to be considered as foreign in the *Italic* letter.

Another question may arise with regard to appellatives, or the names of species. It seems of no great use to set down the words *horse, dog, cat, willow, alder, daisy, rose* and a thousand others, of which it will be hard to give an explanation, not more obscure than the word itself. Yet it is to be considered, that, if the names of animals be inserted we must admit those which are more known as well as those with which we are by accident, less acquainted and if they are all rejected how will the reader be relieved from difficulties produced by allusions to the crocodile, the chameleon, the ichneumon, and the hyæna? If no plants are to be mentioned the most pleasing part of nature will be excluded, and many beautiful epithets be unexplained. If only those which are less known are to be mentioned, who shall fix the limits of the reader's learning? The importance of such explanations appears from the mistakes which the want of them has occasioned. Had *Shakspeare* had a dictionary of this kind he had not made the *woodbine* entwine the *honey suckle* nor would *Milton*, with such assistance have disposed so improperly of his *elops* and his *scorpion*.

Besides,

Besides, as such words, like others, require that their accents should be settled, their sounds ascertained, and then etymologies deduced, they cannot be properly omitted in the dictionary. And though the explanations of some may be censured as trivial because they are almost universally understood, and those of others as unnecessary, because they will seldom occur, yet it seems not proper to omit them since it is rather to be wished that many readers should find more than they expect, than that one should miss what he might hope to find.

When all the words are selected and arranged the first part of the work to be considered is the orthography, which was long vague and uncertain which at last, when its fluctuation ceased, was in many cases settled but by accident: and in which according to your Lordship's observation, there is still great uncertainty among the best critics: nor is it easy to state a rule by which we may decide between custom and reason, or between the equiponderant authorities of writers alike eminent for judgment and accuracy.

The great orthographical contest has long subsisted between etymology and pronunciation. It has been demanded, on one hand, that men should write as they speak, but as it has been shown that this conformity never was attained in any language, and that it is not more easy to persuade men to agree exactly in speaking than in writing, it may be asked with equal propriety, why men do not rather speak as they write. In *France*, where this controversy was at its greatest height, neither party, however ardent, durst adhere steadily to their own rule; the etymologis

etymologist was often forced to spell with the people and the advocate for the authority of pronunciation found it sometimes deviating so capriciously from the received use of writing, that he was constrained to comply with the rule of his adversaries, lest he should lose the end by the means, and be left alone by following the crowd

When a question of orthography is dubious, that practice has in my opinion, a claim to preference which preserves the greatest number of radical letters, or seems most to comply with the general custom of our language. But the chief rule which I propose to follow is, to make no innovation without a reason sufficient to balance the inconvenience of change and such reasons I do not expect often to find. All change is of itself an evil, which ought not to be introduced but for evident advantage, and as inconstancy is in every case a mark of weakness, it will add nothing to the reputation of our tongue. There are, indeed, some who despise the inconveniencies of confusion, who seem to take pleasure in departing from custom, and to think alteration desirable for its own sake, and the reformation of our orthography, which these writers have attempted, should not pass without its due honours, but that I suppose they hold singularity its own-reward, or may dread the fascination of Irish phrase.

The present usage of spelling where the present usage can be distinguished, will therefore in this work be generally followed yet there will be often occasion to observe, that it is in itself inaccurate, and tolerated rather than chosen, particularly when, by a change of one letter, or more, the meaning of a word

a word is obscured, as in *farricæ*, for *ferricæ*, as it was formerly written, from *ferrum*, or *fer*, in *gibberish*, for *gebrish*, the jargon of *Geber* and his chymical followers, understood by none but their own tribe. It will be likewise sometimes proper to trace back the orthography of different ages, and show by what gradations the word departed from its original

Closely connected with orthography is pronunciation, the stability of which is of great importance to the duration of a language, because the first change will naturally begin by corruptions in the living speech. The want of certain rules for the pronunciation of former ages, has made us wholly ignorant of the metrical art of our ancient poets; and since those who study their sentiments regret the loss of their numbers, it is surely time to provide that the harmony of the moderns may be more permanent

A new pronunciation will make almost a new speech, and therefore, since one great end of this undertaking is to fix the *English* language, care will be taken to determine the accentuation of all polysyllables by proper authorities, as it is one of those capricious phænomena which cannot be easily reduced to rules. Thus there is no antecedent reason for difference of accent in the two words *dolorous* and *sonorous*, yet of the one *Milton* gives the sound in this line,

He pass'd o'er many a region *dolorous*,  
and that of the other in this,

*Sonorous* metal blowing martial sounds.

It may be likewise proper to remark metrical licenses, such as contractions, *generous*, *gen'rous*, *reverend*, *rev'rend*, and corruptions, as *region*, *question*

But it is still more necessary to fix the pronunciation of monosyllables, by placing with them words of correspondent sound, that one may guard the other against the danger of that variation, which, to some of the most common has already happened, so that the words *wound*, and *wind*, as they are now frequently pronounced, will not rhyme to *sound*, and *mind*. It is to be remarked, that many words written alike are differently pronounced, as *flow* and *brow*, which may be thus registered *flow*, *u o*, *bro v*, *now*, or of which the exemplification may be generally given by a distich thus the words *tear* or lacerate, and *tear*, the water of the eye, have the same letters, but may be distinguished thus, *tear*, *dare*, *tear*, *peer*

Some words have two sounds which may be equally admitted as being equally defensible by authority. Thus *great* is differently used

For Swift and him despis'd the farce of state  
The sober follies of the wise and great POPE

As if misfortune made the throne her seat  
And none could be unhappy but the great ROWE

The care of such minute particulars may be censured as trifling, but these particulars have not been thought unworthy of attention in more polished languages

The accuracy of the *French*, in stating the sounds of their letters, is well known, and, among the  
*Italians*,

*Italians*, *Crescembini* has not thought it unnecessary to inform his countrymen of the words, which, in compliance with different rhymes, are allowed to be differently spelt, and of which the number is now so fixed, that no modern poet is suffered to increase it

When the orthography and pronunciation are adjusted, the etymology or derivation is next to be considered, and the words are to be distinguished according to the different classes, whether simple, as *day*, *light*, or compound, as *day-light*; whether primitive, as, to *act*, or derivative, as *action*, *actionable*, *active*, *activity* This will much facilitate the attainment of our language, which now stands in our dictionaries a confused heap of words without dependence, and without relation

When this part of the work is performed, it will be necessary to inquire how our primitives are to be deduced from foreign languages, which may be often very successfully performed by the assistance of our own etymologists This search will give occasion to many curious disquisitions and sometimes perhaps to conjectures, which to readers unacquainted with this kind of study, cannot but appear improbable and capricious But it may be reasonably imagined, that what is so much in the power of men as language, will very often be capriciously conducted. Nor are these disquisitions and conjectures to be considered altogether as wanton sports of wit, or vain shows of learning, our language is well known not to be primitive or self-originated, but to have adopted words of every generation, and, either for the supply of its necessities, or the increase of its copiousness, to have received additions from very

distant regions, so that in search of the progenitors of our speech we may wander from the tropick to the frozen zone, and find some in the valleys of *Palestine*, and some upon the rocks of *Norway*

Beside the derivation of particular words, there is likewise an etymology of phrases Expressions are often taken from other languages, some apparently, as to *run a risk*, *courir un risque* and some even when we do not seem to borrow their words, thus, to *bring about* or accomplish, appears in *English* phrase, but in reality our native word *about* has no such import, and is only a *French* expression, of which we have an example in the common phrase *venir à bout d'une affaire*

In exhibiting the descent of our language, our etymologists seem to have been too lavish of their learning, having traced almost every word through various tongues, only to show what was shown sufficiently by the first derivation This practice is of great use in synoptical lexicons, where mutilated and doubtful languages are explained by their affinity to others more certain and extensive, but is generally superfluous in *English* etymologies When the word is easily deduced from a *Saxon* origin, I shall not often inquire further, since we know not the parent of the *Saxon* dialect, but when it is borrowed from the *French* I shall show whence the *French* is apparently derived Where a *Saxon* root cannot be found, the defect may be supplied from kindred languages which will be generally furnished with much liberality by the writers of our glossaries writers who deserve often the highest praise both of judgment and industry, and may expect at least to be

be mentioned with honour by me, whom they have freed from the greatest part of a very laborious work, and on whom they have imposed, at worst, only the easy task of rejecting superfluities.

By tracing in this manner every word to its original, and not admitting, but with great caution, any of which no original can be found, we shall secure our language from being overrun with *cant*, from being crowded with low terms, the spawn of folly or affectation, which arise from no just principles of speech, and of which therefore no legitimate derivation can be shown.

When the etymology is thus adjusted, the analogy of our language is next to be considered, when we have discovered whence our words are derived, we are to examine by what rules they are governed, and how they are inflected through their various terminations. The terminations of the *English* are few, but those few have hitherto remained unregarded by the writers of our dictionaries. Our substantives are declined only by the plural termination, our adjectives admit no variation but in the degrees of comparison, and our verbs are conjugated by auxiliary words, and are only changed in the preter tense.

To our language may be with great justness applied the observation of *Quintilian*, that speech was not formed by an analogy sent from heaven. It did not descend to us in a state of uniformity and perfection, but was produced by necessity and enlarged by accident, and is therefore composed of dissimilar parts, thrown together by negligence, by affectation, by learning, or by ignorance.

Our

Our inflections therefore are by no means constant but admit of numberless irregularities, which in this Dictionary will be diligently noted Thus *fox* makes in the plural *foxes*, but *ox* makes *oxen* *Sheep* is the same in both numbers Adjectives are sometimes compared by changing the last syllable, as *proud, prouder, proudest*, and sometimes by particles prefixed, as, *ambitious more ambitious most ambitious* The forms of our verbs are subject to great variety, some end their preter tense in *ed* as I *love*, I *loved* I have *loved*, which may be called the regular form and is followed by most of our verbs of southern original But many depart from this rule, without agreeing in any other, as I *shale*, I *shook* I have *shaken*, or *shook* as it is sometimes written in poetry, I *make*, I *made*, I have *made*, I *bring*, I *brought*, I *oring*, I *wrung*, and many others which, as they cannot be reduced to rules must be learned from the dictionary rather than the grammar

The verbs are likewise to be distinguished according to their qualities, as actives from neuters, the neglect of which has already introduced some barbarities in our conversation, which, if not obviated by just animadversions, may in time creep into our writings

Thus, my Lord, will our language be laid down, distinct in its minutest subdivisions and resolved into its elemental principles And who upon this survey can forbear to wish, that these fundamental atoms of our speech might obtain the firmness and immutability of the primogenial and constituent particles of matter, that they might retain their substance

stance while they alter their appearance, and be varied and compounded, yet not destroyed.

But this is a privilege which words are scarcely to expect, for, like their author, when they are not gaining strength, they are generally losing it. Though art may sometimes prolong their duration, it will rarely give them perpetuity; and their changes will be almost always informing us, that language is the work of man, of a being from whom permanence and stability cannot be derived.

Words having been hitherto considered as separate and unconnected, are now to be likewise examined as they are ranged in their various relations to others by the rules of syntax or construction, to which I do not know that any regard has been yet shown in *English* dictionaries, and in which the grammarians can give little assistance. The syntax of this language is too inconstant to be reduced to rules, and can be only learned by the distinct consideration of particular words as they are used by the best authors. Thus, we say, according to the present modes of speech, The soldier died *of* his wounds, and the sailor perished *with* hunger; and every man acquainted with our language would be offended by a change of these particles, which yet seem originally assigned by chance, there being no reason to be drawn from grammar why a man may not, with equal propriety, be said to die *with* a wound, or perish *of* hunger.

Our syntax therefore is not to be taught by general rules, but by special precedents, and in examining whether *Addison* has been with justice accused of a solecism in this passage,

The poor inhabitant -  
 Starves in the midst of nature's bounty cur'd  
 And in the loaden vineyard dies for thirst—

it is not in our power to have recourse to any established laws of speech, but we must remark how the writers of former ages have used the same word, and consider whether he can be acquitted of impropriety, upon the testimony of *Davies*, given in his favour by a similar passage.

She loaths the wat'ry glass wherein she galls,  
 And shuns it still although for thirst she dyes

When the construction of a word is explained, it is necessary to pursue it through its train of phraseology, through those forms where it is used in a manner peculiar to our language, or in senses not to be comprised in the general explanations, as from the verb *make* arise these phrases, to *make* loose, to *make* an end, to *make* way as, he *made* way for his followers, the ship *made* way before the wind, to *make* a bed, to *make* merry, to *make* a mock, to *make* presents, to *make* a doubt, to *make* out an assertion, to *make* good a breach, to *make* good a cause, to *make* nothing of an attempt, to *make* lamentation, to *make* a merit, and many others which will occur in reading with that view, and which only their frequency hinders from being generally remarked.

The great labour is yet to come, the labour of interpreting these words and phrases with brevity, fulness and perspicuity, a task of which the extent and intricacy is sufficiently shown by the miscarriage of those who have generally attempted it. This

difficulty is increased by the necessity of explaining the words in the same language; for there is often only one word for one idea; and though it be easy to translate the words *bright, sweet, soft, bitter*, into another language, it is not easy to explain them.

With regard to the interpretation, many other questions have required consideration. It was some time doubted whether it be necessary to explain the things implied by particular words, as under the term *baronet*, whether, instead of this explanation, *a title of honour next in degree to that of baron*, it would be better to mention more particularly the creation, privileges, and rank of baronets, and whether, under the word *barometer*, instead of being satisfied with observing that it is *an instrument to discover the weight of the air*, it would be fit to spend a few lines upon its invention, construction, and principles. It is not to be expected, that with the explanation of the one the herald should be satisfied, or the philosopher with that of the other; but since it will be required by common readers, that the explanations should be sufficient for common use; and since, without some attention to such demands, the Dictionary cannot become generally valuable, I have determined to consult the best writers for explanations real as well as verbal; and perhaps I may at last have reason to say, after one of the augmenters of *Furetier*, that my book is more learned than its author.

In explaining the general and popular language, it seems necessary to sort the several senses of each word, and to exhibit first its natural and primitive signification, as,

To *arrive*, to reach the shore in a voyage he *arrived* at a safe harbour

Then to give its consequential meaning *to arrive*, to reach any place, whether by land or sea, as he *arrived* at his country seat

Then its metaphorical sense, to obtain any thing desired, as, he *arrived* at a peerage

Then to mention any observation that arises from the comparison of one meaning with another, as, it may be remarked of the word *arrive*, that in consequence of its original and etymological sense, it cannot be properly applied but to words signifying something desirable, thus we say, a man *arrived* at happiness but cannot say, without a mixture of irony, he *arrived* at misery

*Ground*, the earth, generally as opposed to the air or water He swam till he reached *ground* The bird fell to the *ground*

Then follows the accidental or consequential signification, in which *ground* implies any thing that lies under another as, he laid colours upon a rough *ground* The silk had blue flowers on a red *ground*

Then the remoter or metaphorical signification, as the *ground* of his opinion was a false computation The *ground* of his work was his father's manuscript

After having gone through the natural and figurative senses it will be proper to subjoin the poetical sense of each word where it differs from that which is in common use, as, *wanton*, applied to any thing of which the motion is irregular without terror, as,

In *wanton* ringlets curl'd her hair

## THE PLAN OF

To the poetical sense may succeed the familiar; as of *toast*, used to imply the person whose health is drunk

The wise man's passion, and the vain man's *toast*      POPE

The familiar may be followed by the bulesque; as of *mellow* applied to good fellowship:

In all thy humours, whether grave or *mellow*.      ADDISON.  
Or of *bite*, used for *cheat*

- - - More a dupe than wit,  
*Sappho* can tell you, how this man was *bit*      POPE.

And lastly, may be produced the peculiar sense in which a word is found in any great author: as *faculties*, in *Shakspeare*, signifies the powers of authority.

- - - This *Duncan*  
Has born his *faculties* so much, has been  
So clear in his great office, that, &c.

The signification of adjectives may be often ascertained by uniting them to substantives; as, *simple swain*, *simple sheep*. Sometimes the sense of a substantive may be elucidated by the epithets annexed to it in good authors, as, the *boundless ocean*, the *open lawns*: and where such advantage can be gained by a short quotation it is not to be omitted

The difference of signification in words generally accounted synonymous, ought to be carefully observed, as in *pride*, *haughtiness*, *arrogance*: and the strict and critical meaning ought to be distinguished from that which is loose and popular, as in the word *perfection*, which, though in its philosophical and  
exact

exact sense it can be of little use among human beings, is often so much degraded from its original signification that the academicians have inserted in their work, the *perfection of a language*, and with a little more licentiousness might have prevailed on themselves to have added *the perfection of a dictionary*

There are many other characters of words which it will be of use to mention. Some have both an active and passive signification, as *fearful*, that which gives or which feels terror a *fearful prodigy*, a *fearful hare*. Some have a personal, some a real meaning, as in opposition to *old* we use the adjective *young* of animated beings, and *new* of other things. Some are restrained to the sense of praise, and others to that of disapprobation, so commonly though not always, we *exhort* to good actions, we *instigate* to ill, we *animate*, *incite*, and *encourage* indifferently to good or bad. So we usually *ascribe* good but *impute* evil yet neither the use of these words, nor perhaps of any other in our licentious language, is so established as not to be often reversed by the correctest writers. I shall therefore, since the rules of style like those of law, arise from precedents often repeated, collect the testimonies on both sides, and endeavour to discover and promulgate the decrees of custom who has so long possessed, whether by right or by usurpation, the sovereignty of words.

It is necessary likewise to explain many words by their opposition to others, for contraries are best seen when they stand together. Thus the verb *stand* has one sense, as opposed to *fall*, and another as opposed to *fly*, for want of attending to which distinc-

tion, obvious as it is, the learned Dr *Bentley* has squandered his criticism to no purpose, on these lines of *Paradise Lost* .

- - - In heaps

Chariot and charioteer lay overturn'd,  
And fiery foaming steeds    What *stood*, *recoil'd*,  
O'erwearied, through the faint satanic host,  
Defensive scarce, or with pale fear surpris'd  
*Fled* ignominious - - -

‘ Here,’ says the critic, ‘ as the sentence is now read, we find that what *stood*, *fled* ’ and therefore he proposes an alteration, which he might have spared if he had consulted a dictionary, and found that nothing more was affirmed than that those *fled* who did *not fall*

In explaining such meanings as seem accidental and adventitious, I shall endeavour to give an account of the means by which they were introduced. Thus, to *eke out* any thing, signifies to lengthen it beyond its just dimensions by some low artifice, because the word *eke* was the usual refuge of our old writers when they wanted a syllable. And *buxom*, which means only *obedient*, is now made, in familiar phrases, to stand for *wanton*, because in an ancient form of marriage, before the Reformation, the bride promised complaisance and obedience in these terms: ‘ I will be bonair and *buxom* in bed and at board ’

I know well, my Lord, how trifling many of these remarks will appear, separately considered, and how easily they may give occasion to the contemptuous -  
ment of sportive idleness, and the gloomy censures of arrogant stupidity, but dulness it is easy to despise, and laughter it is easy to repay. I shall not  
be

be solicitous what is thought of my work by such as know not the difficulty or importance of philological studies nor shall think those that have done nothing qualified to condemn me for doing little. It may not, however, be improper to remind them, that no terrestrial greatness is more than an aggregate of little things and to inculcate, after the *Arabian* proverb, that drops added to drops constitute the ocean.

There remains yet to be considered the distribution of words into their proper classes, or that part of lexicography which is strictly critical.

The popular part of the language, which includes all words not appropriated to particular science, admits of many distinctions and subdivisions, as, into words of general use, words employed chiefly in poetry, words obsolete, words which are admitted only by particular writers, yet not in themselves improper, words used only in burlesque writing, and words impure and barbarous.

Words of general use will be known by having no sign of particularity, and their various senses will be supported by authorities of all ages.

The words appropriated to poetry will be distinguished by some mark prefixed, or will be known by having no authorities but those of poets.

Of antiquated or obsolete words, none will be inserted but such as are to be found in authors who wrote since the accession of Elizabeth, from which we date the golden age of our language, and of these many might be omitted, but that the reader may require, with an appearance of reason, that no difficulty should be left unresolved in books which  
he

he finds himself invited to read, as confessed and established models of style. These will be likewise pointed out by some note of exclusion, but not of disgrace.

The words which are found only in particular books, will be known by the single name of him that has used them, but such will be omitted, unless either their propriety, elegance, or force, or the reputation of their authors, affords some extraordinary reason for their reception.

Words used in bulesque and familiar compositions, will be likewise mentioned with their proper authorities, such as *dudgeon*, from *Butler*, and *teasing*, from *Prior*, and will be diligently characterized by marks of distinction.

Barbarous, or impure words and expressions, may be branded with some note of infamy, as they are carefully to be eradicated wherever they are found; and they occur too frequently even in the best writers: as in *Pope*,

- - - in endless error hurld.

'Tis these that early taint the female soul

In *Addison*

Attend to what a *lesser* muse indites.

And in *Dryden*,

A dreadful quiet felt, and noiser far

Than arms - - -

If this part of the Work can be well performed, it will be equivalent to the proposal made by *Bouleau* to the Academicians, that they should review all their polite writers, and correct such impurities as might be found in them, that their authority might not contribute, at any distant time, to the depavation of the language.

With

With regard to questions of purity or propriety, I was once in doubt whether I should not attribute too much to myself in attempting to decide them, and whether my province was to extend beyond the proposition of the question and the display of the suffrages on each side, but I have been since determined, by your Lordship's opinion to interpose my own judgment, and shall therefore endeavour to support what appears to me most consonant to grammar and reason. *Ausonius* thought that modesty forbade him to plead inability for a task to which *Cæsar* had judged him equal

*Cūr me posse negem posse quod ille putat?*

And I may hope, my Lord, that since you, whose authority in our language is so generally acknowledged, have commissioned me to declare my own opinion, I shall be considered as exercising a kind of vicarious jurisdiction, and that the power which might have been denied to my own claim, will be readily allowed me as the delegate of your Lordship

In citing authorities on which the credit of every part of this Work must depend it will be proper to observe some obvious rules; such as of preferring writers of the first reputation to those of an inferior rank of noting the quotations with accuracy, and of selecting when it can be conveniently done such sentences, as, besides their immediate use may give pleasure or instruction, by conveying some elegance of language, or some precept of prudence, or piety

It has been asked, on some occasions who shall judge the judges? And since, with regard to this design, a question may arise by what authority the authorities

authorities are selected, it is necessary to obviate it, by declaring that many of the writers whose testimonies will be alleged, were selected by Mr *Pope*, of whom I may be justified in assuming, that were he still alive, solicitous as he was for the success of this work, he would not be displeased that I have undertaken it

It will be proper that the quotations be ranged according to the ages of their authors, and it will afford an agreeable amusement, if to the words and phrases which are not of our own growth, the name of the writer who first introduced them can be affixed, and if to words which are now antiquated, the authority be subjoined of him who last admitted them. Thus, for *scathe* and *burom*, now obsolete, *Milton* may be cited

- - - - The mountain oak  
 Stands *scath'd* to heaven - - -  
 - - - He with broad sails  
 Winnow'd the *burom* air - - -

By this method every word will have its history, and the reader will be informed of the gradual changes of the language, and have before his eyes the rise of some words, and the fall of others. But observations so minute and accurate are to be desired, rather than expected, and if use be carefully supplied, curiosity must sometimes bear its disappointments.

This, my Lord, is my idea of an *English Dictionary*, a dictionary by which the pronunciation of our language may be fixed, and its attainment facilitated, by which its purity may be preserved, its use ascertained, and its duration lengthened. And  
 'though,

though, perhaps, to correct the language of nations by books of grammar and amend their manners by discourses of morality, may be tasks equally difficult, yet, as it is unavoidable to wish, it is natural likewise to hope, that your Lordship's patronage may not be wholly lost, that it may contribute to the preservation of ancient and the improvement of modern writers, that it may promote the reformation of those translators, who, for want of understanding the characteristical difference of tongues, have formed a chaotic dialect of heterogeneous phrases, and awaken to the care of purer diction some men of genius, whose attention to argument makes them negligent of style, or whose rapid imagination, like the *Peruvian* torrents, when it brings down gold, mingles it with sand

When I survey the Plan which I have laid before you I cannot, my Lord, but confess that I am frightened at its extent, and like the soldiers of *Cæsar*, look on *Britain* as a new world, which it is almost madness to invade But I hope, that though I should not complete the conquest I shall at least discover the coast civilize part of the inhabitants, and make it easy for some other adventurer to proceed further, to reduce them wholly to subjection, and settle them under laws

We are taught by the great *Roman* orator, that every man should propose to himself the highest degree of excellence, but that he may stop with honour at the second or third though therefore my performance should fall below the excellence of other dictionaries, I may obtain, at least the praise of having endeavoured well, nor shall I think it any reproach

proach to my diligence, that I have retired, without a triumph, from a contest with united academies, and long successions of learned compilers. I cannot hope, in the warmest moments, to preserve so much caution through so long a work, as not often to sink into negligence, or to obtain so much knowledge of all its parts, as not frequently to fail by ignorance. I expect that sometimes the desire of accuracy will urge me to superfluities, and sometimes the fear of prolixity betray me to omissions: that in the extent of such variety I shall be often bewildered, and in the mazes of such intricacy be frequently entangled: that in one part refinement will be subtilized beyond exactness, and evidence dilated in another beyond perspicuity. Yet I do not despair of approbation from those who, knowing the uncertainty of conjecture, the scantiness of knowledge, the fallibility of memory, and the unsteadiness of attention, can compare the causes of error with the means of avoiding it, and the extent of art with the capacity of man; and whatever be the event of my endeavours, I shall not easily regret an attempt which has procured me the honour of appearing thus publicly,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient  
and most humble servant,

SAM JOHNSON\*.

\* Written in the year 1747. C.

## P R E F A C E

TO THE

## ENGLISH DICTIONARY.

IT is the fate of those who toil at the lower employments of life, to be rather driven by the fear of evil, than attracted by the prospect of good, to be exposed to censure without hope of praise to be disgraced by miscarriage, or punished for neglect, where success would have been without applause, and diligence without reward

Among these unhappy mortals is the writer of dictionaries whom mankind have considered, not as the pupil, but the slave of science, the pioneer of literature, doomed only to remove rubbish and clear obstructions from the paths through which Learning and Genius press forward to conquest and glory, without bestowing a smile on the humble drudge that facilitates their progress Every other author may aspire to praise, the lexicographer can only hope to escape reproach, and even this negative recompense has been yet granted to very few

I have, notwithstanding this discouragement, attempted a Dictionary of the *English* language, which,  
while

while it was employed in the cultivation of every species of literature, has itself been neglected, suffered to spread, under the direction of chance, into wild exuberance, resigned to the tyranny of time and fashion, and exposed to the corruptions of ignorance, and excesses of innovation.

When I took the first survey of my vocabulary, I found our speech copious without order, and energetic without rules: wherever I turned my view, there was perplexity to be disentangled, and confusion to be regulated, choice was to be made out of boundless variety, without any established principle of selection, adulterations were to be detected, without a settled test of purity, and modes of expression to be rejected or received, without the suffrages of any writers of classical reputation or acknowledged authority.

Having therefore no assistance but from general grammar, I applied myself to the perusal of our writers, and noting whatever might be of use to ascertain or illustrate any word or phrase accumulated in time the materials of a dictionary, which, by degrees, I reduced to method, establishing to myself, in the progress of the work, such rules as experience and analogy suggested to me, experience, which practice and observation were continually increasing, and analogy, which, though in some words obscure, was evident in others.

In adjusting the *Orthography*, which has been to this time unsettled and fortuitous, I found it necessary to distinguish those irregularities that are inherent in our tongue, and perhaps coeval with it,  
from

from others which the ignorance or negligence of later writers has produced Every language has its anomalies, which, though inconvenient, and in themselves once unnecessary, must be tolerated among the imperfections of human things and which require only to be registered, that they may not be increased, and ascertained that they may not be confounded but every language has likewise its improprieties and absurdities, which it is the duty of the lexicographer to correct or proscribe

As language was at its beginning merely oral, all words of necessary or common use were spoken before they were written, and while they were unfixed by any visible signs, must have been spoken with great diversity, as we now observe those who cannot read to catch sounds imperfectly, and utter them negligently When this wild and barbarous jargon was first reduced to an alphabet every penman endeavoured to express as he could the sounds which he was accustomed to pronounce or to receive, and vitiated in writing such words as were already vitiated in speech The powers of the letters, when they were applied to a new language, must have been vague and unsettled, and therefore different hands would exhibit the same sound by different combinations

From this uncertain pronunciation arise in great part the various dialects of the same country, which will always be observed to grow fewer and less different as books are multiplied, and from this arbitrary representation of sounds by letters proceeds that diversity of spelling observable in the *Saxon*



*Latin*, thus *entire* is chosen rather than *intire*, because it passed to us not from the *Latin integer*, but from the *French entier*

Of many words it is difficult to say whether they were immediately received from the *Latin* or the *French*, since, at the time when we had dominions in *France*, we had *Latin* service in our churches. It is however, my opinion, that the *French* generally supplied us, for we have few *Latin* words among the terms of domestick use, which are not *French*, but many *French*, which are very remote from *Latin*

Even in words of which the derivation is apparent, I have been often obliged to sacrifice uniformity to custom, thus I write, in compliance with a numberless majority, *convey* and *inveigh*, *deceit*, and *receipt*, *fancy* and *phantom*, sometimes the derivative varies from the primitive, as *explain* and *explanation*, *repeat*, and *repetition*

Some combinations of letters having the same power, are used indifferently without any discoverable reason of choice, as in *choak* *choke*, *soap*, *sope*, *fevel* *fuel*, and many others, which I have sometimes inserted twice, that those who search for them under either form, may not search in vain

In examining the orthography of any doubtful word, the mode of spelling by which it is inserted in the series of the dictionary, is to be considered as that to which I give, perhaps not often rashly the preference. I have left, in the examples, to every author his own practice unmolested, that the reader may balance suffrages and judge between us. but this question is not always to be determined by reputation or by real learning. some men, intent upon

greater things, have thought little on sounds and derivations, some, knowing in the ancient tongues, have neglected those in which our words are commonly to be sought. Thus *Hammond* writes *fecibleness*, for *feasibleness*, because I suppose he imagined it derived immediately from the *Latin*, and some words, such as *dependant*, *dependent*, *dependance*, *dependence*, vary their final syllable, as one or another language is present to the writer.

In this part of the work, where caprice has long wanted without control, and vanity sought praise by petty reformation, I have endeavoured to proceed with a scholar's reverence for antiquity, and a grammarian's regard to the genus of our tongue. I have attempted few alterations, and among those few, perhaps the greater part is from the modern to the ancient practice, and I hope I may be allowed to recommend to those whose thoughts have been perhaps employed too anxiously on verbal singularities, not to disturb, upon narrow views, or for minute propriety, the orthography of their fathers. It has been asserted, that for the law to be *known*, is of more importance than to be *right*. 'Change' says *Hooker*, 'is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better.' There is in constancy and stability a general and lasting advantage, which will always overbalance the slow improvements of gradual correction. Much less ought our written language to comply with the corruptions of oral utterance, or copy that which every variation of time or place makes different from itself, and imitate those changes, which will again be changed, while imitation is employed in observing them.

This

This recommendation of steadiness and uniformity does not proceed from an opinion, that particular combinations of letters have much influence on human happiness or that truth may not be successfully taught by modes of spelling fanciful and erroneous. I am not yet so lost in lexicography as to forget that *words are the daughters of earth, and that things are the sons of heaven*. Language is only the instrument of science, and words are but the signs of ideas. I wish, however, that the instrument might be less apt to decay, and that signs might be permanent like the things which they denote.

In settling the orthography, I have not wholly neglected the pronunciation, which I have directed, by printing an accent upon the acute or elevated syllable. It will sometimes be found, that the accent is placed by the author quoted on a different syllable from that marked in the alphabetical series: it is then to be understood, that custom has varied, or that the author has in my opinion pronounced wrong. Short directions are sometimes given where the sound of letters is irregular, and if they are sometimes omitted, defect in such minute observations will be more easily excused, than superfluity.

In the investigation both of the orthography and signification of words, their *Etymology* was necessarily to be considered, and they were therefore to be divided into primitives and derivatives. A primitive word is that which can be traced no further to any *English* root: thus *circumspect, circumvent, circumstance, delude, concave, and complicate*, though compounds in the *Latin*, are to us primitives. Deriva

tives, are all those that can be referred to any word in *English* of greater simplicity.

The derivatives I have referred to their primitives, with an accuracy sometimes needless, for who does not see that *remoteness* comes from *remote*, *lovely* from *love*, *concavity* from *concave*, and *demonstrative* from *demonstrate*? But this grammatical exuberance the scheme of my work did not allow me to repress. It is of great importance, in examining the general fabrick of a language, to trace one word from another, by noting the usual modes of derivation and inflection, and uniformity must be preserved in systematical works, though sometimes at the expense of particular propriety.

Among other derivatives I have been careful to insert and elucidate the anomalous plurals of nouns and preterites of verbs, which in the *Teutonical* dialects are very frequent, and, though familiar to those who have always used them, interrupt and embarrass the learners of our language.

The two languages from which our primitives have been derived are the *Roman* and *Teutonical*: under the *Roman* I comprehend the *French* and provincial tongues; and under the *Teutonical* range the *Saxon*, *German*, and all their kindred dialects. Most of our polysyllables are *Roman*, and our words of one syllable are very often *Teutonical*.

In assigning the *Roman* original, it has perhaps sometimes happened that I have mentioned only the *Latin*, when the word was borrowed from the *French*, and considering myself as employed only in the illustration of my own language, I have not been very careful to observe whether the *Latin* word be

pure or barbarous, or the *French* elegant or obsolete

For the *Teutonic* etymologies, I am commonly indebted to *Junius* and *Skinner*, the only names which I have forbore to quote when I copied their books, not that I might appropriate their labours or usurp their honours, but that I might spare a perpetual repetition by one general acknowledgment. Of these, whom I ought not to mention but with reverence due to instructors and benefactors, *Junius* appears to have excelled in extent of learning, and *Skinner* in rectitude of understanding. *Junius* was accurately skilled in all the northern languages, *Skinner* probably examined the ancient and remoter dialects only by occasional inspection into dictionaries, but the learning of *Junius* is often of no other use than to show him a track by which he may deviate from his purpose, to which *Skinner* always presses forward by the shortest way. *Skinner* is often ignorant, but never ridiculous. *Junius* is always full of knowledge, but his variety distracts his judgment, and his learning is very frequently disgraced by his absurdities.

The votaries of the northern muses will not perhaps easily restrain their indignation, when they find the name of *Junius* thus degraded by a disadvantageous comparison, but whatever reverence is due to his diligence, or his attainments, it can be no criminal degree of censoriousness to charge that etymologist with want of judgment, who can seriously derive *dream* from *drama*, because *life is a drama*, and *a drama is a dream*, and who declares with a tone of defiance, that no man can fail to derive

*moan* from *μόνος*, *monos*, *single* or *solitary*, who considers that grief naturally loves to be alone\*.

Our knowledge of the northern literature is so scanty, that of words undoubtedly *Teutonic*, the original is not always to be found in any ancient language,

\* That I may not appear to have spoken too irreverently of *Junius*, I have here subjoined a few specimens of his etymological extravagance

BANISH, *icligare*, *ei banno vel territorio exigere*, in *exilium agere*. Γ *bannu* It *bandire*, *bandeggiare*. II *bandir* B *barnen*, Ævi medi scriptores *bannue* dicebant V Spelin in *Bannum* & in *Banleuga* Quoniam vero regionum urbiumq. limites arduis plerumq. montibus, altis fluminibus, longis deniq. flexuosisq. angustissimarum viarum amfractibus includebantur, fieri potest id genus limites *ban* dici ab eo quod Βανιά-αι & Βάνια-ροι Tarentinis olim, sicuti tradit Hesychius, vocabantur αἱ λοξοὶ καὶ μὴ ἰθυτενεῖς ὁδοί, "obliquæ ac minime in rectum tendentes viæ" Ac fortasse quoque huc facit quod Βανὲς, eodem Hesychio teste, dicebant ὄρη στεργγύλη, montes arduos

EMPTY, *emtie*, *tacuius*, *manis* A S Æmτζ Nescio an sint ab *εμέω* vel *εμεάω* Vomō, évomō, vomitu evacuō Videtur interim etymologiam hanc non obscure firmare codex Rush Matt xii 22 ubi antiquè scriptum invenimus γενοετες hic *emetiz* "Invenit eam vacantem"

HILL, *mons*, *collis* A S hyll Quod videri potest abscissum ex *κολώνη* vel *κολωνός* Collis, tumulus, locus in plano editior. Hom Il b v 811 ἔστι δὲ τις προτάροιδε τόλιος αἰ-εῖα κολώνη Ubi authori brevium scholiorum *κολώνη* εἷρ τόπος εἰς ὕψος ἀνέγαι, γειώλοφος ἑξοχή

NAP, *to take a nap* *Dormire*, *condormiscere* Cym heppian A S hnæppan Quod postremum videri potest desumptum ex *πίφας*, obscuritas, tenebræ nihil enim æque solet conciliare somnum, quàm caliginosa profunda noctis obscuritas

STAMMERER, *Balbus*, *blæsus* Goth STAMMS A S ꝛtamēr, ꝛtamur D *stam* B *stameler* Su *Stamma* Isl *staur*. Sunt a *σφωλύειν* vel *σφωύλλειν*, nimia loquacitate alios offendere, quod impeditè loquentes libentissimè garrere soleant, vel quod alius nimis semper videantur, etiam parcissimè loquentes.

gurge, and I have therefore inserted *Dutch* or *German* substitutes which I consider not as radical, but parallel, not as the parents, but sisters of the *English*

The words which are represented as thus related by descent or cognation, do not always agree in sense, for it is incident to words, as to their authors, to degenerate from their ancestors, and to change their manners when they change their country. It is sufficient, in etymologic inquiries, if the senses of kindred words be found such as may easily pass into each other, or such as may both be referred to one general idea.

The etymology, so far as it is yet known, was easily found in the volumes where it is particularly and professedly delivered, and by proper attention to the rules of derivation, the orthography was soon adjusted. But to collect the words of our language was a task of greater difficulty. the deficiency of dictionaries was immediately apparent, and when they were exhausted, what was yet wanting must be sought by fortuitous and unguided excursions into books and gleaned as industry should find, or chance should offer it, in the boundless chaos of a living speech. My search however, has been either skilful or lucky, for I have much augmented the vocabulary.

As my design was a dictionary, common or appellative, I have omitted all words which have relation to proper names such as *Asian*, *Sacrian*, *Calvinist*, *Benedictine*, *Mahometan* but have retained those of a more general nature, as *Heathen*, *Pagan*

Of the terms of art I have received such as could be found either in books of science or technical dictionaries; and have often inserted, from philosophical writers, words which are supported perhaps only by a single authority, and which being not admitted into general use, stand yet as candidates or probationers, and must depend for their adoption on the suffrage of futurity.

The words which our authors have introduced by their knowledge of foreign languages, or ignorance of their own, by vanity or wantonness, by compliance with fashion or lust of innovation, I have registered as they occurred, though commonly only to censure them and warn others against the folly of naturalizing useless foreigners to the injury of the natives.

I have not rejected any by design, merely because they were unnecessary or exuberant, but have received those which by different writers have been differently formed, as *viscid*, and *viscidly*, *viscous*, and *viscosity*.

Compounded or double words I have seldom noted, except when they obtained signification different from that which the components have in their simple state. Thus *highwayman*, *woodman*, and *horce-courser*, require an explanation, but of *thieflike*, or *coachdriver* no notice was needed, because the primitives contain the meaning of the compounds.

Words arbitrarily formed by a constant and settled analogy, like diminutive adjectives in *ish*, as *greenish*, *bluish*, adverbs in *ly*, as *dully*, *openly*, substantives in *ness*, as *vileness*, *faultiness*; were less diligently sought, and sometimes have been omitted, when

I had no authority that invited me to insert them, not that they are not genuine and regular offsprings of *English* roots, but because their relation to the primitive being always the same, their signification cannot be mistaken

The verbal nouns in *ing*, such as the *keeping* of the castle, the *leading* of the army, are always neglected, or placed only to illustrate the sense of the verb, except when they signify things as well as actions, and have therefore a plural number, as *dwelling*, *living*, or have an absolute and abstract signification, as *colouring*, *painting*, *learning*

The participles are likewise omitted, unless, by signifying rather habit or quality than action, they take the nature of adjectives as a *thinking* man, a man of prudence, a *pacing* horse a horse that can pace these I have ventured to call *participial adjectives* But neither are these always inserted, because they are commonly to be understood without any danger of mistake by consulting the verb

Obsolete words are admitted when they are found in authors not obsolete or when they have any force or beauty that may deserve revival

As composition is one of the chief characteristics of a language I have endeavoured to make some reparation for the universal negligence of my predecessors, by inserting great numbers of compounded words as may be found under *after*, *fore*, *next*, *night*, *fair*, and many more These, numerous as they are might be multiplied, but that use and curiosity are here satisfied and the frame of our language and modes of our combination amply discovered

Of some forms of composition, such as that by which *re* is prefixed to note *repetition*, and *un* to signify *contrariety* or *privation*, all the examples cannot be accumulated, because the use of these particles, if not wholly arbitrary, is so little limited, that they are hourly affixed to new words as occasion requires, or is imagined to require them.

There is another kind of composition more frequent in our language than perhaps in any other, from which arises to foreigners the greatest difficulty. We modify the signification of many verbs by a particle subjoined, as to *come off*, to escape by a fetch; to *fall on*, to attack, to *fall off*, to apostatize; to *break off*, to stop abruptly, to *bear out*, to justify, to *fall in*, to comply, to *give over*, to cease, to *set off*, to embellish, to *set in*, to begin a continual tenour; to *set out*, to begin a course or journey, to *take off*, to copy, with innumerable expressions of the same kind, of which some appear wildly irregular, being so far distant from the sense of the simple words, that no sagacity will be able to trace the steps by which they arrived at the present use. These I have noted with great care, and though I cannot flatter myself that the collection is complete, I believe I have so far assisted the students of our language, that this kind of phrasology will be no longer insuperable, and the combinations of verbs and particles, by chance omitted, will be easily explained by comparison with those that may be found.

Many words yet stand supported only by the name of *Barley*, *Ainsworth*, *Philips*, or the contracted *Dict.* for *Dictionaries* subjoined, of these I am not always certain that they are read in any book but the works  
of

of lexicographers Of such I have omitted many, because I had never read them, and many I have inserted, because they may perhaps exist though they have escaped my notice they are, however, to be yet considered as resting only upon the credit of former dictionaries Others, which I considered as useful, or know to be proper, though I could not at present support them by authorities, I have suffered to stand upon my own attestation, claiming the same privilege with my predecessors, of being sometimes credited without proof

The words, thus selected and disposed, are grammatically considered, they are referred to the different parts of speech, traced, when they are irregularly inflected through their various terminations, and illustrated by observations, not indeed of great or striking importance, separately considered, but necessary to the elucidation of our language, and hitherto neglected or forgotten by *English* grammarians

That part of my work on which I expect malignity most frequently to fasten, is the *explanation*, in which I cannot hope to satisfy those, who are perhaps not inclined to be pleased, since I have not always been able to satisfy myself To interpret a language by itself is very difficult, many words can not be explained by synonimes, because the idea signified by them has not more than one appellation, nor by paraphrase, because simple ideas cannot be described When the nature of things is unknown, — or the notion unsettled and indefinite and various in various minds the words by which such notions are conveyed, or such things denoted, will be ambiguous

biguous and perplexed And such is the fate of hapless lexicography, that not only darkness, but light, impedes and distresses it; things may be not only too little, but too much known, to be happily illustrated To explain, requires the use of terms less abstruse than that which is to be explained, and such terms cannot always be found, for as nothing can be proved but by supposing something intuitively known, and evident without proof, so nothing can be defined but by the use of words too plain to admit a definition

Other words there are, of which the sense is too subtle and evanescent to be fixed in a paraphrase; such are all those which are by the grammarians termed *expletives*, and, in dead languages, are suffered to pass for empty sounds, of no other use than to fill a verse or to modulate a period, but which are easily perceived in living tongues to have power and emphasis, though it be sometimes such as no other form of expression can convey

My labour has likewise been much increased by a class of verbs too frequent in the *English* language, of which the signification is so loose and general, the use so vague and indeterminate, and the senses distorted so widely from the first idea, that it is hard to trace them through the maze of variation, to catch them on the brink of utter inanity, to circumscribe them by any limitations, or interpret them by any words of distinct and settled meaning, such are *bear, break, come, cast, full, get, give, do, put, set, go, run, make, take, turn, throw* If of these the whole power is not accurately delivered, it must be remembered, that while our language is yet living,  
and

and variable by the caprice of every one that speaks it, these words are hourly shifting their relations, and can no more be ascertained in a dictionary, than a grove, in the agitation of a storm, can be accurately delineated from its picture in the water

The particles are among all nations applied with so great latitude, that they are not easily reducible under any regular scheme of explication this difficulty is not less, nor perhaps greater, in *English*, than in other languages I have laboured them with diligence, I hope with success, such at least as can be expected in a task, which no man, however learned or vigorous, has yet been able to perform

Some words there are which I cannot explain, because I do not understand them these might have been omitted very often with little inconvenience, but I would not so far indulge my vanity as to decline this confession for when *Tully* owns himself ignorant whether *lessus*, in the twelve tables, means a funeral song, or mourning garment, and *Aristotle* doubts whether *ὄπις* in the *Iliad*, signifies a mule, or muleteer, I may surely, without shame, leave some obscurities to happier industry, or future information

The rigour of interpretative lexicography requires that the explanation, and the word explained, should be always reciprocal, this I have always endeavoured, but could not always attain Words are seldom exactly synonymous, a new term is not introduced, but because the former was thought inadequate names therefore, have often many ideas, but few ideas have many names It was then necessary to use the proximate word, for the deficiency of single terms

terms can very seldom be supplied by circumlocution; nor is the inconvenience great of such mutilated interpretations, because the sense may easily be collected entire from the examples

In every word of extensive use, it was requisite to mark the progress of its meaning, and show by what gradations of intermediate sense it has passed from its primitive to its remote and accidental signification; so that every foregoing explanation should tend to that which follows, and the series be regularly concatenated from the first notion to the last.

This is specious, but not always practicable; kindred senses may be so interwoven, that the perplexity cannot be disentangled, nor any reason be assigned why one should be ranged before the other. When the radical idea branches out into parallel ramifications, how can a consecutive series be formed of senses in their nature collateral? The shades of meaning sometimes pass imperceptibly into each other; so that though on one side they apparently differ, yet it is impossible to mark the point of contact. Ideas of the same race, though not exactly alike, are sometimes so little different, that no words can express the dissimilitude, though the mind easily perceives it, when they are exhibited together, and sometimes there is such a confusion of acceptations, that discernment is wearied, and distinction puzzled; and perseverance herself huries to an end, by crowding together what she cannot separate

These complaints of difficulty will, by those that have never considered words beyond their popular use, be thought only the jargon of a man willing to magnify his labours, and procure veneration to his studies

studies by involution and obscurity. But every art is obscure to those that have not learned it. thus uncertainty of terms, and commixture of ideas, is well known to those who have joined philosophy with grammar. and if I have not expressed them very clearly, it must be remembered that I am speaking of that which words are insufficient to explain.

The original sense of words is often driven out of use by their metaphoric and acceptations, yet must be inserted for the sake of a regular origination. Thus I know not whether *ardour* is used for *material heat*, or whether *flagrant*, in *English* ever signifies the same with *burning*. yet such are the primitive ideas of these words which are therefore set first, though without examples that the figurative senses may be commodiously deduced.

Such is the exuberance of signification which many words have obtained, that it was scarcely possible to collect all their senses, sometimes the meaning of derivatives must be sought in the mother term. and sometimes deficient explanations of the primitive may be supplied in the train of derivation. In any case of doubt or difficulty, it will be always proper to examine all the words of the same race, for some words are slightly passed over to avoid repetition, some admitted easier and clearer explanation than others, and all will be better understood, as they are considered in greater variety of structures and relations.

All the interpretations of words are not written with the same skill or the same happiness. things equally easy in themselves, are not all equally easy to any single mind. Every writer of a long work

commits errors, where there appears neither ambiguity to mislead, nor obscurity to confound him : and in a search like this, many felicities of expression will be casually overlooked, many convenient parallels will be forgotten, and many particulars will admit improvement from a mind utterly unequal to the whole performance

But many seeming faults are to be imputed rather to the nature of the undertaking, than the negligence of the performer. Thus some explanations are unavoidably reciprocal or circular, as *hind, the female of the stag ; stag, the male of the hind*, sometimes easier words are changed into harder, as *burial* into *sepulture*, or *interment*, *drier* into *desiccative*, *dryness* into *siccity* or *aridity*, *fit* into *paroxysm*, for the easiest word, whatever it be, can never be translated into one more easy. But easiness and difficulty are merely relative, and if the present prevalence of our language should invite foreigners to this Dictionary, many will be assisted by those words which now seem only to increase or produce obscurity. For this reason I have endeavoured frequently to join a *Teutonic* and *Roman* interpretation, as to *cheer*, to *gladden*, or *exhilarate*, that every learner of *English* may be assisted by his own tongue

The solution of all difficulties, and the supply of all defects, must be sought in the examples subjoined to the various senses of each word, and ranged according to the time of their authors

When I first collected these authorities, I was desirous that every quotation should be useful to some other end than the illustration of a word, I therefore extracted from philosophers principles of science,

science, from historians remarkable facts, from chymists complete processes, from divines striking exhortations, and from poets beautiful descriptions. Such is design, while it is yet at a distance from execution. When the time called upon me to range this accumulation of elegance and wisdom into an alphabetical series, I soon discovered that the bulk of my volumes would fright away the student and was forced to depart from my scheme of including all that was pleasing or useful in *English* literature, and reduce my transcripts very often to clusters of words, in which scarcely any meaning is retained, thus to the weariness of copying, I was condemned to add the vexation of expunging. Some passages I have yet spared, which may relieve the labour of verbal searches, and intersperse with verdure and flowers the dusty deserts of barren philology.

The examples, thus mutilated are no longer to be considered as conveying the sentiments or doctrine of their authors, the word for the sake of which they are inserted, with all its appendant clauses has been carefully preserved, but it may sometimes happen, by hasty detruncation, that the general tendency of the sentence may be changed the divine may desert his tenets, or the philosopher his system.

Some of the examples have been taken from writers who were never mentioned as masters of elegance, or models of style, but words must be sought where they are used, and in what pages, eminent for purity, can terms of manufacture or agriculture be found? Many quotations serve no

other purpose than that of proving the bare existence of words, and are therefore selected with less scrupulousness than those which are to teach their structures and relations.

My purpose was to admit no testimony of living authors, that I might not be misled by partiality, and that none of my contemporaries might have reason to complain, nor have I departed from this resolution, but when some performance of uncommon excellence excited my veneration, when my memory supplied me, from late books, with an example that was wanting, or when my heart, in the tenderness of friendship, solicited admission for a favourite name.

So far have I been from any care to grace my pages with modern decorations, that I have studiously endeavoured to collect examples and authorities from the writers before the restoration, whose works I regard as *the wells of English undefiled*, as the pure sources of genuine diction. Our language, for almost a century, has, by the concurrence of many causes, been gradually departing from its original *Teutonic* character, and deviating toward a *Gallic* structure and phraseology, from which it ought to be our endeavour to recall it, by making our ancient volumes the ground work of style, admitting among the additions of later times, only such as may supply real deficiencies, such as are readily adopted by the genius of our tongue, and incorporate easily with our native idioms.

But as every language has a time of rudeness antecedent to perfection, as well as of false refinement and declension, I have been cautious lest my zeal for antiquity might drive me into times too remote,  
and

and crowd my book with words now no longer understood I have fixed *Sidney's* work for the boundary, beyond which I make few excursions From the authors which rose in the time of *Elizabeth*, a speech might be formed adequate to all the purposes of use and elegance If the language of theology were extracted from *Hooker* and the translation of the Bible, the terms of natural knowledge from *Bacon*, the phrases of policy, war, and navigation from *Raleigh*, the diction of poetry and fiction from *Spenser* and *Sidney* and the diction of common life from *Shakespeare*, few ideas would be lost to mankind for want of *English* words, in which they might be expressed

It is not sufficient that a word is found, unless it be so combined as that its meaning is apparently determined by the tract and tenour of the sentence, such passages I have therefore chosen and when it happened that any author gave a definition of a term, or such an explanation as is equivalent to a definition, I have placed his authority as a supplement to my own without regard to the chronological order that is otherwise observed

Some words, indeed, stand unsupported by any authority, but they are commonly derivative nouns or adverbs formed from their primitives by regular and constant analogy, or names of things seldom occurring in books, or words of which I have reason to doubt the existence

There is more danger of censure from the multiplicity than paucity of examples authorities will sometimes seem to have been accumulated without necessity or use and perhaps some will be found which might, without loss, have been omitted

But a work of this kind is not hastily to be charged with superfluities, those quotations, which to careless or unskilful perusers appear only to repeat the same sense, will often exhibit, to a more accurate examiner, diversities of signification, or, at least, afford different shades of the same meaning. one will shew the word applied to persons, another to things, one will express an ill, another a good, and a third a neutral sense. one will prove the expression genuine from an ancient author, another will show it elegant from a modern. a doubtful authority is corroborated by another of more credit, an ambiguous sentence is ascertained by a passage clear and determinate; the word, how often soever repeated, appears with new associates and in different combinations, and every quotation contributes something to the stability or enlargement of the language.

When words are used equivocally, I receive them in either sense, when they are metaphorical, I adopt them in their primitive acceptation.

I have sometimes, though rarely, yielded to the temptation of exhibiting a genealogy of sentiments, by shewing how one author copied the thoughts and diction of another. such quotations are indeed little more than repetitions, which might justly be censured, did they not gratify the mind, by affording a kind of intellectual history.

The various syntactical structures occurring in the examples have been carefully noted, the licence or negligence with which many words have been hitherto used, has made our style capricious and indeterminate, when the different combinations of the same word are exhibited together, the preference is  
readily

readily given to propriety, and I have often endeavoured to direct the choice

Thus have I laboured by settling the orthography, displaying the analogy, regulating the structures, and ascertaining the signification of *English* words, to perform all the parts of a faithful lexicographer but I have not always executed my own scheme, or satisfied my own expectations. The work whatever proofs of diligence and attention it may exhibit, is yet capable of many improvements the orthography which I recommend is still controvertible, the etymology which I adopt is uncertain, and perhaps frequently erroneous, the explanations are sometimes too much contracted, and sometimes too much diffused, the significations are distinguished rather with subtilty than skill, and the attention is harassed with unnecessary minuteness.

The examples are too often injudiciously truncated and perhaps sometimes, I hope very rarely, alleged in a mistaken sense, for in making this collection I trusted more to memory, than, in a state of disquiet and embarrassment, memory can contain, and purposed to supply at the review what was left incomplete in the first transcription.

Many terms appropriated to particular occupations though necessary and significant, are undoubtedly omitted, and of the words most studiously considered and exemplified, many senses have escaped observation.

Yet these failures, however frequent, may admit extenuation and apology. To have attempted much is always laudable, even when the enterprize

is above the strength that undertakes it: To rest below his own aim is incident to every one whose fancy is active, and whose views are comprehensive, nor is any man satisfied with himself because he has done much, but because he can conceive little. When first I engaged in this work, I resolved to leave neither words nor things unexamined, and pleased myself with a prospect of the hours which I should reel away in feasts of literature, the obscure recesses of northern learning which I should enter and ransack, the treasures with which I expected every search into those neglected mines to reward my labour, and the triumph with which I should display my acquisitions to mankind. When I had thus enquired into the original of words, I resolved to show likewise my attention to things; to pierce deep into every science, to enquire the nature of every substance of which I inserted the name, to limit every idea by a definition strictly logical, and exhibit every production of art or nature in an accurate description, that my book might be in place of all other dictionaries whether appellative or technical. But these were the dreams of a poet doomed at last to wake a lexicographer. I soon found that it is too late to look for instruments, when the work calls for execution, and that whatever abilities I had brought to my task, with those I must finally perform it. To deliberate whenever I doubted, to enquire whenever I was ignorant, would have protracted the undertaking without end, and, perhaps, without much improvement, for I did not find by my first experiments, that what I had not of my own  
was

was easily to be obtained I saw that one enquiry only gave occasion to another, that book referred to book, that to search was not always to find, and to find was not always to be informed, and that thus to pursue perfection, was like the first inhabitants of Arcadia, to chase the sun, which, when they had reached the hill where he seemed to rest, was still beheld at the same distance from them

I then contracted my design, determining to confide in myself, and no longer to solicit auxiliaries, which produced more incumbrance than assistance, by this I obtained at least one advantage, that I set limits to my work which would in time be ended, though not completed

Despondency has never so far prevailed as to depress me to negligence, some faults will at last appear to be the effects of anxious diligence and persevering activity The nice and subtle ramifications of meaning were not easily avoided by a mind intent upon accuracy and convinced of the necessity of disentangling combinations, and separating similitudes Many of the distinctions which to common readers appear useless and idle, will be found real and important by men versed in the school philosophy, without which no dictionary can ever be accurately compiled, or skilfully examined

Some senses however there are which, though not the same, are yet so nearly allied that they are often confounded Most men think indistinctly, and therefore cannot speak with exactness, and consequently some examples might be indifferently put to either signification this uncertainty is not to be imputed to me, who do not form, but register the language,

language; who do not teach men how they should think, but relate how they have hitherto expressed their thoughts

The imperfect sense of some examples I lamented, but could not remedy, and hope they will be compensated by innumerable passages selected with propriety, and preserved with exactness, some shining with sparks of imagination, and some replete with treasures of wisdom

The orthography and etymology, though imperfect, are not imperfect for want of care, but because care will not always be successful, and recollection or information come too late for use

That many terms of art and manufacture are omitted, must be frankly acknowledged; but for this defect I may boldly allege that it was unavoidable, I could not visit caverns to learn the miner's language, nor take a voyage to perfect my skill in the dialect of navigation, nor visit the warehouses of merchants, and shops of artificers, to gain the names of wares, tools and operations, of which no mention is found in books, what favourable accident, or easy enquiry brought within my reach, has not been neglected, but it had been a hopeless labour to glean up words, by courting living information, and contesting with the sullenness of one, and the roughness of another

To furnish the academicians *della Crusca* with words of this kind, a series of comedies called *la Fiera*, or *the Fair*, was professedly written by *Buonarroti*, but I had no such assistant, and therefore was content to want what they must have wanted likewise, had they not luckily been so supplied.

Nor are all words which are not found in the vocabulary, to be lamented as omissions. Of the labourious and mercantile part of the people, the diction is in a great measure casual and mutable, many of their terms are formed for some temporary or local convenience, and though current at certain times and places are in others utterly unknown. This fugitive cant, which is always in a state of increase or decay, cannot be regarded as any part of the durable materials of a language, and therefore must be suffered to perish with other things unworthy of preservation.

Care will sometimes betray to the appearance of negligence. He that is catching opportunities which seldom occur, will suffer those to pass by unregarded, which he expects hourly to return. he that is searching for rare and remote things, will neglect those that are obvious and familiar, thus many of the most common and cursory words have been inserted with little illustration because in gathering the authorities, I forebore to copy those which I thought likely to occur whenever they were wanted. It is remarkable that, in reviewing my collection, I found the *void sea* unexemplified.

Thus it happens that in things difficult there is danger from ignorance and in things easy from confidence the mind afraid of greatness and disdainful of littleness, hastily withdraws herself from painful searches and passes with scornful rapidity over tasks not adequate to her powers, sometimes too secure for caution, and again too anxious for vigorous effort, sometimes idle in a plain path and sometimes

sometimes distracted in labyrinths, and dissipated by different intentions.

A large work is difficult because it is large, even though all its parts might singly be performed with facility, where there are many things to be done, each must be allowed its share of time and labour, in the proportion only which it bears to the whole, nor can it be expected, that the stones which form the dome of a temple, should be squared and polished like the diamond of a ring.

Of the event of this work, for which, having laboured it with so much application, I cannot but have some degree of parental fondness, it is natural to form conjectures. Those who have been persuaded to think well of my design, will require that it should fix our language, and put a stop to those alterations which time and chance have hitherto been suffered to make in it without opposition. With this consequence I will confess that I flattered myself for a while; but now begin to fear that I have indulged expectation which neither reason nor experience can justify. When we see men grow old and die at a certain time one after another, from century to century, we laugh at the elixir that promises to prolong life to a thousand years, and with equal justice may the lexicographer be derided, who being able to produce no example of a nation that has preserved their words and phrases from mutability, shall imagine that his dictionary can embalm his language, and secure it from corruption and decay, that it is in his power to change sublunary nature, and clear the world at once from folly, vanity, and affectation.

With

With this hope, however, academies have been instituted, to guard the avenues of their languages, to return fugitives, and repulse intruders, but their vigilance and activity have hitherto been vain, sounds are too volatile and subtle for legal restraints, to enchain syllables, and to lash the wind, are equally the undertakings of pride, unwilling to measure its desires by its strength. The French language has visibly changed under the inspection of the academy, the style of *Amelot's* translation of *father Paul* is observed by *Le Courayer* to be *un peu passe*, and no *Italian* will maintain, that the diction of any modern writer is not perceptibly different from that of *Boccaccio*, *Machiavel*, or *Caro*.

Total and sudden transformations of a language seldom happen conquests and migrations are now very rare but there are other causes of change, which though slow in their operation and invisible in their progress are perhaps as much superior to human resistance as the revolutions of the sky, or intumescence of the tide. Commerce, however necessary however lucrative as it depraves the manners corrupts the language, they that have frequent intercourse with strangers to whom they endeavour to accommodate themselves, must in time learn a mingled dialect, like the jargon which serves the traffickers on the *Mediterranean* and *Indian* coasts. This will not always be confined to the exchange the warehouse, or the port, but will be communicated by degrees to other ranks of the people, and be at last incorporated with the current speech.

There are likewise internal causes equally forcible. The language most likely to continue long without alteration

alteration, would be that of a nation raised a little, and but a little, above barbarity, secluded from strangers, and totally employed in procuring the conveniences of life, either without books, or, like some of the *Mahometan* countries, with very few : men thus busied and unlearned, having only such words as common use requires, would perhaps long continue to express the same notions by the same signs. But no such constancy can be expected in a people polished by arts, and classed by subordination, where one part of the community is sustained and accommodated by the labour of the other. Those who have much leisure to think, will always be enlarging the stock of ideas, and every increase of knowledge, whether real or fancied, will produce new words, or combinations of words. When the mind is unchained from necessity, it will range after convenience; when it is left at large in the field of speculation, it will shift opinions, as any custom is disused, the words that expressed it must perish with it, as any opinion grows popular, it will innovate speech in the same proportion as it alters practice.

As by the cultivation of various sciences, a language is amplified, it will be more furnished with words deflected from their original sense, the geometrician will talk of a country's zenith, or the eccentric virtue of a wild hero, and the physician of sanguine expectations, and phlegmatic delays. Copiousness of speech will give opportunities to capricious choice, by which some words will be preferred, and others degraded, vicissitudes of fashion will enforce the use of new, or extend the signification of known terms. The tropes of poetry will  
make

make hourly encroachments, and the metaphorical will become the current sense pronunciation will be varied by levity or ignorance, and the pen must at length comply with the tongue illiterate writers will, at one time or other, by public infatuation, rise into renown, who not knowing the original import of words, will use them with colloquial licentiousness confound distinction and forget propriety As politeness increases, some expressions will be considered as too gross and vulgar for the delicate, others as too formal and ceremonious for the gay and airy new phrases are therefore adopted, which must, for the same reasons, be in time dismissed *Swift*, in his petty treatise on the *English* language, allows that new words must sometimes be introduced, but proposes that none should be suffered to become obsolete But what makes a word obsolete, more than general agreement to forbear it? and how shall it be continued, when it conveys an offensive idea or recalled again into the mouths of mankind when it has once become unfamiliar by disuse, and unpleasant by unfamiliarity?

There is another cause of alteration more prevalent than any other which yet in the present state of the world cannot be obviated A mixture of two languages will produce a third distinct from both, and they will always be mixed, where the chief part of education, and the most conspicuous accomplishment, is skill in ancient or in foreign tongues He that has long cultivated another language, will find its words and combinations crowd upon his memory, and haste and negligence refine  
ment

ment and affectation, will obtrude borrowed terms and exotic expressions.

The great pest of speech is frequency of translation. No book was ever turned from one language into another, without imparting something of its native idiom, this is the most mischievous and comprehensive innovation; single words may enter by thousands, and the fabrick of the tongue continue the same; but new phraseology changes much at once, it alters not the single stones of the building, but the order of the columns. If an academy should be established for the cultivation of our style; which I, who can never wish to see dependence multiplied, hope the spirit of *English* liberty will hinder or destroy, let them, instead of compiling grammars and dictionaries, endeavour, with all their influence, to stop the licence of translators, whose idleness and ignorance, if it be suffered to proceed, will reduce us to babble a dialect of *France*.

If the changes that we fear be thus irresistible, what remains but to acquiesce with silence, as in the other insurmountable distresses of humanity? It remains that we retard what we cannot repel, that we palliate what we cannot cure. Life may be lengthened by care, though death cannot be ultimately defeated. Tongues, like governments, have a natural tendency to degeneration; we have long preserved our constitution, let us make some struggles for our language.

In hope of giving longevity to that which its own nature forbids to be immortal, I have devoted this book, the labour of years, to the honour of my country,

country, that we may no longer yield the palm of philology, without a contest, to the nations of the continent. The chief glory of every people arises from its authors: whether I shall add any thing by my own writings to the reputation of *English* literature, must be left to time: much of my life has been lost under the pressures of disease, much has been trifled away, and much has always been spent in provision for the day that was passing over me, but I shall not think my employment useless or ignoble if by my assistance foreign nations, and distant ages gain access to the propagators of knowledge, and understand the teachers of truth: if my labours afford light to the repositories of science, and add celebrity to *Bacon* to *Hooker*, to *Milton*, and to *Boyle*.

When I am animated by this wish, I look with pleasure on my book: however defective, and deliver it to the world with the spirit of a man that has endeavoured well. That it will immediately become popular I have not promised to myself: a few wild blunders, and risible absurdities from which no work of such multiplicity was ever free, may for a time furnish folly with laughter and harden ignorance in contempt, but useful diligence will at last prevail, and there never can be wanting some who distinguish desert, who will consider that no dictionary of a living tongue ever can be perfect, since while it is hastening to publication, some words are budding and some falling away: that a whole life cannot be spent upon syntax and etymology, and that even a whole life would not be sufficient, that he whose design includes whatever language can express must often speak of what he does not un-

derstand, that a writer will sometimes be hurried by eagerness to the end, and sometimes faint with weariness under a task, which *Scaliger* compares to the labours of the anvil and the mine, that what is obvious is not always known, and what is known is not always present, that sudden fits of inadvertency will surprise vigilance, slight avocations will seduce attention, and casual eclipses of the mind will darken learning, and that the writer shall often in vain trace his memory at the moment of need, for that which yesterday he knew with intuitive readiness, and which will come uncalled into his thoughts to-morrow

In this work, when it shall be found that much is omitted, let it not be forgotten that much likewise is performed, and though no book was ever spared out of tenderness to the author, and the world is little solicitous to know whence proceeded the faults of that which it condemns, yet it may gratify curiosity to inform it, that the *English Dictionary* was written with little assistance of the learned, and without any patronage of the great, not in the soft obscurities of retirement, or under the shelter of academick bowers, but amid inconvenience and distraction, in sickness and in sorrow. It may repress the triumph of malignant criticism to observe, that if our language is not here fully displayed, I have only failed in an attempt which no human powers have hitherto completed. If the lexicons of ancient tongues, now immutably fixed, and comprised in a few volumes, be yet, after the toil of successive ages, inadequate and delusive, if the aggregated knowledge, and co-operating diligence of the *Italian* academicians,

academicians, did not secure them from the censure of *Ben*, if the embodied critics of *France* when fifty years had been spent upon their work were obliged to change its æconomy and give their second edition another form I may surely be contented without the praise of perfection which if I could obtain in this gloom of solitude, what would it avail me? I have protracted my work till most of those whom I wished to please have sunk into the grave, and success and misc. praise are empty sounds I therefore dismiss it with frigid tranquillity, having little to fear or hope from censure or from praise \*

\* Dr Johnson's Dictionary was published on the fifteenth day of April 1755 in two vols folio price £ 4 10s bound. The bookellers who engaged in this National Work were the Knapton Longman Hitch & Co Mill and Doddsley C



# MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

## TRAGEDY OF MACBETH

WITH

### REMARKS

ON SIR THOMAS HAYWARD'S Edition of SHAKESPEARE

First printed in the Year 1745

" —As to all those things which have been published under  
 " the titles of *Essays, Remarks, Observations &c* on *Shakespeare*  
 (if you except some critical notes on *Macbeth* given as a spe-  
 cimen of a projected edition, and written as appears by a man  
 of parts and genius) the rest are absolutely below a serious  
 notice *Harburton's Preface to Shakespeare* E.

### NOTE I

#### ACT I SCENE I

*Enter three Witches*

IN order to make a true estimate of the abilities and merit of a writer, it is always necessary to examine the genius of his age, and the opinions of his contemporaries. A poet who should now make the whole action of his tragedy depend upon enchantment, and produce the chief events by the assistance of supernatural agents, would be censured as transgressing the bounds of probability, he would be banished from the theatre to the nursery, and condemned to write Fairy Tales instead of Tragedies, but a survey

of the notions that prevailed at the time when this play was written will prove that *Shakespeare* was in no danger of such censures, since he only turned the system that was then universally admitted to his advantage, and was far from overburthening the credulity of his audience

The reality of witchcraft or enchantment, which, though not strictly the same, are confounded in this play, has in all ages and countries been credited by the common people, and in most by the learned themselves. These phantoms have indeed appeared more frequently, in proportion as the darkness of ignorance has been more gross, but it cannot be shown, that the brightest gleams of knowledge have at any time been sufficient to drive them out of the world. The time in which this kind of credulity was at its height, seems to have been that of the holy war, in which the Christians imputed all their defeats to enchantment or diabolical opposition, as they ascribe their success to the assistance of their military saints; and the learned Mr *Warburton* appears to believe (*Suppl to the Introduction to Don Quixote*) that the first accounts of enchantments were brought into this part of the world by those who returned from their eastern expeditions. But there is always some distance between the birth and maturity of folly as of wickedness. this opinion had long existed, though perhaps the application of it had in no foregoing age been so frequent, nor the reception so general. *Olympiodorus*, in *Photius's* Extracts, tells us of one *Libanius*, who practised this kind of military magick, and having promised *χωρίς ὀπλίων καὶ Βαρβάρων ἐνεργεῖν*, to perform great things against

# TRAGEDY OF MACBETH 71

against the Barbarians without soldiers was, at the instances of the empress *Placidia*, put to death when he was about to have given proofs of his abilities. The empress showed some kindness in her anger by cutting him off at a time so convenient for his reputation.

But a more remarkable proof of the antiquity of this notion may be found in *St Chrysostom's* book *de Sacerdotio* which exhibits a scene of enchantments not exceeded by any romance of the middle age, he supposes a spectator, overlooking a field of battle, attended by one that points out all the various objects of horror, the engines of destruction, and the arts of slaughter. Δεικνυστα δὲ εἶσι τὰ παρὰ τοῖς ἐναντίοις καὶ πρὸς τοὺς ἴππους δια τινὸς μαγείας καὶ σπλῆτας δι' οὐρανοῦ φερομένους, καὶ πασὴν γούρνας δύναμιν καὶ ἰδέαν. Let him then proceed to show him in the opposite armies horses flying by enchantment armed *mentra* spoiled through the air, and every power and form of magic. Whether *St Chrysostom* believed that such performances were really to be seen in a day of battle, or only endeavoured to enliven his description, by adopting the notions of the vulgar, it is equally certain, that such notions were in his time received, and that therefore they were not imported from the *Saracens* in a later age. The wars with the *Saracens*, however, gave occasion to their propagation, not only as bigotry naturally discovers prodigies, but as the scene of action was removed to a greater distance, and distance either of time or place is sufficient to reconcile weak minds to wonderful relations.

The reformation did not immediately arrive at its meridian, and though day was gradually encreasing

upon us, the goblins of witchcraft still continued to hover in the twilight. In the time of Queen *Elizabeth* was the remarkable trial of the witches of *Warboys*, whose conviction is still commemorated in an annual Sermon at *Huntingdon*. But in the reign of King *James*, in which this tragedy was written, many circumstances concurred to propagate and confirm this opinion. The king, who was much celebrated for his knowledge, had, before his arrival in *England*, not only examined in person a woman accused of witchcraft, but had given a very formal account of the practises and illusions of evil spirits, the compacts of witches, the ceremonies used by them, the manner of detecting them, and the justice of punishing them, in his dialogues of *Dæmonologie*, written in the *Scottish* dialect, and published at *Edinburgh*. This book was, soon after his accession, reprinted at *London*, and as the ready way to gain King *James's* favour was to flatter his speculations, the system of *Dæmonologie* was immediately adopted by all who desired either to gain preferment or not to lose it. Thus the doctrine of witchcraft was very powerfully inculcated, and as the greatest part of mankind have no other reason for their opinions than that they are in fashion, it cannot be doubted but this persuasion made a rapid progress, since vanity and credulity co-operated in its favour, and it had a tendency to free cowardice from reproach. The infection soon reached the parliament, who, in the first year of King *James*, made a law, by which it was enacted, *ch* xii. That “if any person shall use  
 “any invocation or conjuration of any evil or wicked  
 “spirit, 2 Or shall consult, covenant with, entertain,  
 “employ,

“ employ feed, or reward any evil or cursed spirit to  
 ‘ or for any intent or purpose, 3 Or take up any  
 dead man, woman, or child out of the grave,—or  
 ‘ the skin, bone, or any part of the dead person, to  
 ‘ be employed or used in any manner of witchcraft,  
 “ sorcery, charm or enchantment, 4 Or shall use,  
 ‘ practise or exercise any sort of witchcraft, sorcery,  
 charm or enchantment 5 Whereby any person  
 ‘ shall be destroyed, killed, wasted, consumed, pined,  
 “ or lamed in any part of the body, 6 That every  
 “ such person, being convicted, shall suffer death ”

Thus in the time of *Shakespeare*, was the doctrine  
 of witchcraft at once established by law and by the  
 fashion, and it became not only unpolite but crimi-  
 nial to doubt it, and as prodigies are always seen in  
 proportion as they are expected, witches were every  
 day discovered, and multiplied so fast in some places,  
 that bishop *Hall* mentions a village in *Lancashire*,  
 where their number was greater than that of the  
 houses The Jesuits and Sectaries took advantage  
 of this universal error, and endeavoured to promote  
 the interest of their parties by pretended cures of  
 persons afflicted by evil spirits, but they were  
 detected and exposed by the clergy of the established  
 church

Upon this general infaturation *Shakespeare* might  
 be easily allowed to found a play, especially since  
 he has followed with great exactness such histories  
 as were then thought true, nor can it be doubted  
 that the scenes of enchantment however they may  
 now be ridiculed, were both by himself and his  
 audience thought awful and affecting

# OBSERVATIONS ON THE

## NOTE II

### SCENE II

THE merciless *Macdonel*, from the Western Isles

Of *Kerns* and *Gallow-glasses* was supply'd,  
And fortune on his damned *quarry* smiling;  
Show'd like a rebel's whore

*Kerns* are light-armed, and *Gallow-glasses* heavy-armed soldiers. The word *quarry* has no sense that is properly applicable in this place, and therefore it is necessary to read,

*And fortune on his damned quare' smiling*  
*Quarrel* was formerly used for *cause*, or for *the occasion of a quarrel*, and is to be found in that sense in *Hollingshead's* account of the story of *Macbeth*, who, upon the creation of the prince of *Cumberland*, thought, says the historian, that he had a *just quarrel* to endeavour after the crown. The sense therefore is *fortune smiling on his execrable cause*, &c

## NOTE III

If I say sooth, I must report they were,  
As cannons overcharg'd with double cracks,  
So they redoubled strokes upon the foe

Mr *Theobald* has endeavour'd to improve the sense of this passage by altering the punctuation thus.

They were  
As cannons overcharg'd, with double cracks  
So they redoubled strokes-

# TRAGEDY OF MACBETH 75

He declares with some degree of exultation, that he has no idea of *a cannon charged with double cracks* but surely the great author will not grieve much by an alteration which makes him say of a hero that he *redoubles strokes with double cracks*, an expression not more loudly to be applauded, or more easily pardoned, than that which is rejected in its favour. That *a cannon is charged with thunder* or *with double thunders* may be written, not only without nonsense, but with elegance, and nothing else is here meant by *cracks*, which in the time of this writer was a word of such emphasis and dignity, that in this play he terms the general dissolution of nature the *crack of doom*.

There are among Mr Theobald's alterations others which I do not approve, though I do not always censure them, for some of his amendments are so excellent, that even when he has failed, he ought to be treated with indulgence and respect.

## NOTE IV

King BUT who comes here?

Mal The worthy Thane of Rosse

Lenox What haste looks through his eyes?

So should he look that seems to speak things strange

The meaning of this passage as it now stands is, *so should he look that looks as if he told things strange*. But *Rosse* neither yet told strange things, nor could look as if he told them, *Lenox* only conjectured from his air that he had strange things to tell, and therefore undoubtedly said

What

What haste looks through his eyes ?  
So should he look, that *seems* to speak things strange.

*He looks like one that is big with something of importance*, a metaphor so natural, that it is every day used in common discourse.

## NOTE V.

## S C E N E III.

*Thunder. Enter the three Witches.*

1st *Witch* WHERE hast thou been, sister ?

2d *Witch* Killing swine

3d *Witch* Sister, where thou ?

1st *Witch* A sailor's wife had chesnuts in her lap,  
And mouncht, and mouncht, and mouncht. Give  
me, quoth I

(1) Aroint thee, witch, the rump-fed ronyon cries,  
Her husband's to *Aleppo* gone, master o' th' *Tiger* :  
But in a sieve I'll thither sail,  
And like a rat without a tail,  
I'll do I'll do and I'll do

2d *Witch* I'll give thee a wind

1st *Witch* Thou art kind

3d *Witch* And I another

1st *Witch* I myself have all the other,  
And the (2) very points they blow,  
All the quarters that they know,  
I' th' Ship-man's card

I will

I will drun him dry as haw  
 Sleep shall neither night nor day  
 Hang upon his pent house lid,  
 He shall live a man (3) forbid  
 Weary sev'n nights nine times nine,  
 Shall he dwindle, perk and pine  
 Tho' his bark cannot be lost,  
 Yet it shall be tempest tost  
 Look what I have  
 2d Witch Shew me, shew me

(1) Aroint thee, witch, -

In one of the folio editions the reading is *aroint thee* in a sense very consistent with the common accounts of witches, who are related to perform many supernatural acts by the means of unguents, and particularly to fly through the air to the place where they meet at their hellish festivals. In this sense *aroint thee witch*, will mean, *away, witch to your infernal assembly*. This reading I was inclined to favour, because I had met with the word *aroint* in no other place, till looking into *Hearne's Collections*, I found it in a very old drawing that he has published in which *St Patrick* is represented visiting hell and putting the devils into great confusion by his presence, of whom one that is driving the damned before him with a prong has a label issuing out from his mouth with these words *out out aroingt*, of which the last is evidently the same with *aroint*, and used in the same sense as in this passage

(2) And

## 78 OBSERVATIONS ON THE

(2) And the *very* points they blow

As the word *very* is here of no other use than to fill up the verse, it is likely that *Shakespeare* wrote *various*, which might be easily mistaken for *very*, being either negligently read, hastily pronounced, or imperfectly heard

(3) He shall live a man *forbid*

Mr *Theobald* has very justly explained *forbid* by *accused*, but without giving any reason of his interpretation To *bid* is originally *to pray*, as in this *Saxon* fragment

De is Fir þ bit 7 bote &c

He is wise that *prays* & improves

As to *forbid* therefore implies to *prohibit*, in opposition to the word *bid* in its present sense, it signifies by the same kind of opposition to *curse*, when it is derived from the same word in its primitive meaning.

## NOTE VI.

### SCENE V

THE incongruity of all the passages in which the *Thane* of *Cawdor* is mentioned is very remarkable; in the second scene the *Thanes* of *Rosse* and *Angus* bring the king an account of the battle, and inform him that *Norway*,

Assisted

# TRAGEDY OF MACBETH 79

Assisted by that most disloyal traitor  
The *Thane of Cawdor*, 'gan a dismal conflict

It appears that *Cawdor* was taken prisoner, for the king says in the same scene

Go pronounce his death,  
And with his former title greet *Macbeth*

Yet though *Cawdor* was thus taken by *Macbeth*, in arms against his king when *Macbeth* is saluted in the fourth scene *Thane of Cawdor* by the Weird Sisters, he asks,

How of *Cawdor*? the *Thane of Cawdor* lives,  
A prosperous gentleman

And in the next line considers the promises that he should be *Cawdor* and King as equally unlikely to be accomplished. How can *Macbeth* be ignorant of the state of the *Thane of Cawdor* whom he has just defeated and taken prisoner, or call him a *prosperous Gentleman* who has forfeited his title and life by open rebellion? Or why should we wonder that the title of the rebel whom he has overthrown should be conferred upon him? He cannot be supposed to dissemble his knowledge of the condition of *Cawdor*, because he enquires with all the ardour of curiosity and the vehemence of sudden astonishment and because nobody is present but *Banquo* who had an equal part in the battle, and was equally acquainted with *Cawdor's* treason. However, in the next scene,

80 OBSERVATIONS ON THE

his ignorance still continues, and, when *Rosse* and *Angus* present him from the king with his new title, he cries out

The *Thane of Cawdor* lives  
Why do you dress me in his borrowed robes?

*Rosse* and *Angus*, who were the messengers that in the second scene informed the king of the assistance given by *Cawdor* to the invader, having lost, as well as *Macbeth*, all memory of what they had so lately seen and related, make this answer,

Whether he was  
Combin'd with *Norway*, or did line the rebels  
With hidden help and vantage, or with both  
He labour'd in his country's wreck, I know not

Neither *Rosse* knew what he had just reported, nor *Macbeth* what he had just done. This seems not to be one of the faults that are to be imputed to the transcribers, since, though the inconsistency of *Rosse* and *Angus* might be removed, by supposing that their names are erroneously inserted, and that only *Rosse* brought the account of the battle, and only *Angus* was sent to compliment *Macbeth*, yet the forgetfulness of *Macbeth* cannot be palliated, since what he says could not have been spoken by any other.

NOTE VII.

THE thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,  
Shakes so my single state of man,

The

# TRAGEDY OF MACBETH 81

The *single state of man* seems to be used by *Shakespeare* for an *individual*, in opposition to a *commonwealth* or *conjunct body of men*

## NOTE VIII

*Macbeth*      Come what come may,  
Time and the hour runs thro' the roughest day

I suppose every reader is disgusted at the tautology in this passage, *time and the hour*, and will therefore willingly believe that *Shakespeare* wrote it thus

                                 Come what come may  
Time! on!—the hour runs thro' the roughest day

*Macbeth* is deliberating upon the events which are to befall him, but finding no satisfaction from his own thoughts, he grows impatient of reflection, and resolves to wait the close without harassing himself with conjectures,

                                 Come what come may

But to shorten the pain of suspense, he calls upon time in the usual style of ardent desire, to quicken his motion,

                                 Time! on!

He then comforts himself with the reflection that all his perplexity must have an end,

                                 The hour runs thro' the roughest day

This conjecture is supported by the passage in the letter to his lady, in which he says, *They refer'd me to the coming on of time with Haul King that shall be*

## NOTE IX.

### SCENE VI

*Malcolm*      NOTHING in his life  
Became him like the leaving it    He died,  
As one that had been studied in his death,  
To throw away the dearest thing he *ow'd*,  
As 'twere a careless trifle.

As the word *ow'd* affords here no sense but such as is forced and unnatural, it cannot be doubted that it was originally written, *The dearest thing he own'd*, a reading which needs neither defence nor explication.

## NOTE X.

*King*      THERE'S no art,  
'To find the mind's construction in the face

The *construction of the mind* is, I believe, a phrase peculiar to *Shakespeare*, it implies the *frame* or *disposition* of the mind, by which it is determined to good or ill

✠

NOTE XI

*Macbeth* THE service, and the loyalty I owe,  
In doing it, pays itself Your highness part  
Is to receive our duties, and our duties  
Are to your throne and state, children and servants,  
Which do but what they should, in doing every thing,  
*Safe to o rds your love and honour*

Of the last line of this speech, which is certainly, as it is now read unintelligible, an emendation has been attempted, which Mr *Warburton* and Mr *Theobald* have admitted as the true reading

Our duties

Are to your throne and state children and servants,  
Which do but what they should in doing every thing,  
*Fiefs* to your love and honour

My esteem of these criticks, inclines me to believe, that they cannot be much pleased with the expressions *Fiefs to love*, or *Fiefs to honour* and that they have proposed this alteration rather because no other occurred to them, than because they approved it I shall therefore propose a bolder change, perhaps with no better success, but *sua cuique placent* I read thus,

Our duties

Are to your throne and state children and servants,  
Which

Which do but what they should, in doing *nothing*  
*Save* tow'ids *your love and honour*.

We do but perform our duty when we contract rill  
 our views to your service, when we act with *no other*  
 principal than regard to *your love and honour*

It is probable that this passage was first corrupted  
 by writing *safe* for *save*, and the lines then stood  
 thus,

Doing nothing  
 Safe tow'ld your love and honour.

Which the next transcriber observing to be wrong,  
 and yet not being able to discover the real fault,  
 altered to the present reading.

## NOTE XII.

### SCENE VII.

THOU'DST have, great *Glamis*,  
 That which cries, "thus thou must do if thou have *it*,  
 "And that," &c

As the object of *Macbeth's* desire is here introduced speaking of itself, it is necessary to read,

Thou'dst have, great *Glamis*,  
 That which cries, "thus thou must do if thou  
 have *me*."

## NOTE XIII

HIF thee hither,  
 That I may pour my spirits in thine ear,  
 And chastise with the valour of my tongue  
 All that impedes thee from the golden round,  
 That fate and metapysic il and do *seem*  
 To have thee crown'd withal

For *seem* the sense evidently directs us to read *seek*  
 The crown to which fate destines thee, and which  
 preternatural agents *endeavour* to bestow upon thee  
 The *golden round* is the *diadem*

## NOTE XIV

*Lady Macbeth* COME all you spirits  
 That tend on *mortal thoughts*, unsex me here,  
 And fill me from the crown to th toe, top full  
 Of direst cruelty- make thick my blood,  
 Stop up th access and passage to remorse,  
 That no compunctious visitings of nature  
 Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between  
 Th effect and it

## Mortal thoughts

This expression signifies not *the thoughts of mortals*, but *murderous, deadly or destructive designs*  
 So in act 5th

Hold'fast the *mortal* sword

And in another place,

With twenty *mortal* murders.

Not keep pace between  
Th' effect and it

The intent of Lady *Macbeth*, evidently is to wish that no womanish tenderness, or conscientious remorse may hinder her purpose from proceeding to effect, but neither this nor indeed any other sense is expressed by the present reading, and therefore it cannot be doubted that *Shakespeare* wrote differently, perhaps thus :

That no compunctious visitings of nature  
Shake my fell purpose, nor *keep pace* between  
Th' effect and it

To *keep pace between*, may signify *to pass between*, to *intervene*. *Pace* is on many occasions a favourite of *Shakespeare*. This phrase is indeed not usual in this sense, but was it not its novelty that gave occasion to the present corruption ?

## N O T E   X V.

### SCENE VIII.

*King.* THIS castle hath a pleasant *seat*, the air  
Nimble and sweetly recommends itself  
Unto our gentle senses

*Banquo* This guest of summer,  
The temple-haunting Martlet, does approve,

By

By his lov'd mansionary, that heaven's breath  
Smells wooingly here No jutting frieze,  
Buttrice, nor coigne of vantage, but this bird  
Hath made his pendent bed, and procreant cradle  
Where they mo't breed and haunt, I have observ'd  
The air is delicate

In this short scene, I propose a slight alteration to  
be made by substituting *site* for *seat*, as the ancient  
word for *situation* and *sense* for *senses* is more  
agreeable to the measure for which reason likewise  
I have endeavoured to adjust this passage,

Heaven's breath

Smells wooingly here No jutting frieze,

By changing the punctuation and adding a syllable  
thus

Heaven's breath

Smells wooingly Here is no jutting frieze

Those who have perused books printed at the time  
of the first editions of *Shakspeare*, know that  
greater alterations than these are necessary almost in  
every page even where it is not to be doubted that  
the copy was correct

## NOT F XVI

### SCENE X

THE arguments by which Lady *Macbeth* persuades  
her husband to commit the murder, afford a proof  
of *Shakspeare's* knowledge of human nature She  
urges

urges the excellence and dignity of courage, a glittering idea which has dazzled mankind from age to age, and animated sometimes the house-breaker, and sometimes the conqueror: but this sophism *Macbeth* has for ever destroyed by distinguishing true from false fortitude, in a line and a half; of which it may almost be said, that they ought to bestow immortality on the author, though all his other productions had been lost.

I dare do all that may become a man,  
Who dares do more is none

This topick, which has been always employed with too much success, is used in this scene with peculiar propriety, to a soldier by a woman. Courage is the distinguishing virtue of a soldier, and the reproach of cowardice cannot be born by any man from a woman, without great impatience.

She then urges the oaths by which he had bound himself to murder *Duncan*, another art of sophistry by which men have sometimes deluded their consciences, and persuaded themselves that what would be criminal in others is virtuous in them, this argument *Shakespeare*, whose plan obliged him to make *Macbeth* yield, has not confuted, though he might easily have shown that a former obligation could not be vacated by a latter.

#### N O T E XVII.

LETTING *I dare not*, wait upon *I would*,  
Like the poor cat i' th' adage

The

The adage alluded to is, *The cat loves fish, but dares not wet her foot,*

*Catus amat pisces, sed non vult tingere plantas*

N O T E XVIII

WILL I with wine and wassel so convince

To convince is in *Shakespeare* to *over power* or *subdue*, as in this play,

— Their melody *convincees*  
The great assay of art

N O T E XIX

Who shall bear the guilt  
Of our great *quell*

*Quell* is murder, *manquellers* being in the old language the term for which *murderers* is now used

N O T E XX

A C T II S C E N E II

Now o'er one half the world

(1) *Nature seems dead* and wicked dreams abuse  
The curtain'd sleep now witchcraft celebrates  
Pale *Hecat's* offerings and wither'd murder,

(Alarum d

(Alarum'd by his sentinel, the wolf,  
 Whose howl's his watch) thus with his stealthy pace,  
*With (2) Tarquin's ravishing sides, tow'rd his design*  
 Moves like a ghost    Thou sound and firm-set earth,  
 Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear  
 Thy very stones prate of my where-about,  
*And (3) take the present horror from the time,*  
*That now suits with it.*

(1)      Now o'er one half the world  
 Nature seems dead

That is, *over our hemisphere all action and motion seem to have ceased*    This image, which is perhaps the most striking that poetry can produce, has been adopted by *Dryden* in his *Conquest of Mexico*

All things are hush'd as nature's self lay dead,  
 The mountains seem to nod their drowsy head,  
 The little birds in dreams their songs repeat,  
 And sleeping flow'rs beneath the night-dews sweat.  
 Even lust and envy sleep !

Theselines, though so well known, I have transcribed, that the contrast between them and this passage of *Shakespeare* may be more accurately observed

Night is described by two great poets, but one describes a night of quiet, the other of perturbation. In the night of *Dryden*, all the disturbers of the world are laid asleep, in that of *Shakespeare*, nothing but sorcery, lust, and murder is awake. He that reads *Dryden*, finds himself lulled with serenity, and  
 3 disposed

disposed to solitude and contemplation He that  
peruses *Shakespeare*, looks round alarmed, and starts  
to find himself alone One is the might of a lover,  
the other that of a murderer

(2) *Wither'd murder,*

*Thus with his stealthy pace*

*With Tarquin's ravishing strides to o'rd his design,*  
*Moves like a ghost*

This was the reading of this passage in all the editions before that of Mr *Pope* who for *strides*, inserted in the text *strides*, which Mr *Theobald* has treitly copied from him, though a more proper alteration might perhaps have been made A *ravishing stride* is an action of violence impetuosity, and tumult, like that of a savage rushing on his prey whereas the poet is here attempting to exhibit an image of secrecy and caution of anxious circumspection and guilty timidity, the *stealthy pace* of a *ravisher* creeping into the chamber of a virgin and of an assassin approaching the bed of him whom he proposes to murder without waking him, these he describes as *moving like ghosts*, whose progression is so different from *strides* that it has been in all ages represented to be, as *Milton* expresses it,

Smooth sliding without step

This hemistick will afford the true reading of this place, which, is I think to be corrected thus

And wither'd murder,

Thus with his stealthy pace,

With *Tarquin* ravishing, slides tow'rd his design  
Moves like a ghost

*Tarquin*

*Tarquin* is in this place the general name of a ravisher, and the sense is, Now is the time in which every one is asleep, but those who are employed in wickedness, the witch who is sacrificing to *Heate* and the ravisher and the murderer, who, like me, are stealing upon their prey

When the reading is thus adjusted, he wishes with great propriety, in the following lines, that the earth may not *hear his steps*.

(3) And take the present horror from the time  
That now suits with it

I believe every one that has attentively read this dreadful soliloquy is disappointed at the conclusion, which, if not wholly unintelligible, is at least, obscure, nor can be explained into any sense worthy of the author. I shall therefore propose a slight alteration.

Thou sound and firm-set earth,  
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear  
Thy very stones prate of my where-about,  
And *talk* the present horror of the time!  
*That* now suits with it

*Macbeth* has, in the foregoing lines, disturbed his imagination by enumerating all the terrors of the night, at length he is wrought up to a degree of frenzy, that makes him afraid of some supernatural discovery of his design, and calls out to the stones not to betray him, not to declare where he walks, nor to *talk* As he is going to say of what, he discovers

covers the absurdity of his suspicion and praises, but is again overwhelmed by his guilt, and concludes that such are the horrors of the present night, that the stones may be expected to cry out against him

*That now suits with it*

He observes in a subsequent passage that on such occasions *stones have been / no en to move* It is now a very just and strong picture of a man about to commit a deliberate murder under the strongest convictions of the wickedness of his design

## NOTE XXI

### SCENE IV

*Lenox* THE night has been unruly where we lay  
Our chimnies were blown down And as they say,  
Lamentings heard i th' air, strange screams of death,  
And prophecying with accents terrible  
Of dire combustions, and confused events,  
*New hatch'd to the woful time*  
The obscure bird clamour'd the live long night,  
Some say the earth was feverous and did shake

These lines I think should be rather regulated thus

Prophecying with accents terrible,  
Of dire combustions and confused events  
New hatch'd to th' woful time, the obscure bird  
Clamour'd the live long night Some say the earth  
was feverous and did shake

*A pro-*

A *prophecy* of an *event new-hatch'd*, seems to be a *prophecy* of an *event past*. The term *new-hatch'd* is properly applicable to a *bird*, and that birds of ill omen should be *new-hatch'd to the woful time* is very consistent with the rest of the prodigies here mentioned, and with the universal disorder into which nature is described as thrown by the perpetration of this horrid murder.

### N O T E XXII.

UP! UP! and see  
The great doom's image *Malcolm, Banquo*,  
As from your graves rise up

The second line might have been so easily completed, that it cannot be supposed to have been left imperfect by the author, who probably wrote,

*Malcolm! Banquo! rise!*  
As from your graves rise up

Many other emendations of the same kind might be made, without any greater deviation from the printed copies, than is found in each of them from the rest.

### N O T E XXIII.

*Macbeth*      HERE lay *Duncan*,  
His silver skin laced with his golden blood,  
And his gash'd stabs look'd like a breach in nature,  
For ruin's wasteful entrance; there the murtherers  
Steep'd

# TRAGEDY OF MACBETH 95

Steep'd in the colours of their trade, their daggers  
Unmannerly breech'd with gore

An unmannerly dagger and a dagger breeched or as in some editions *breach'd with gore*, are expressions not easily to be understood, nor can it be imagined that *Shakespeare* would reproach the murderer of his king only with want of manners. There are undoubtedly two faults in this passage, which I have endeavoured to take away by reading,

— Daggers

Unmanly drench'd with gore

I saw drench'd with the king's blood the fatal  
daggers, not only instruments of murder but evi-  
dences of cowardice

Each of these words might easily be confounded with that which I have substituted for it by a hand not exact, a casual blot, or a negligent inspection

Mr *Pope* has endeavoured to improve one of these lines by substituting *gory blood* for *golden blood* but it may easily be admitted, that he who could on such an occasion talk of *lacing the silver slin* would lace it with *golden blood*. No amendment can be made to this line of which every word is equally faulty, but by a general blot

It is not improbable that *Shakespeare* put these forced and unnatural metaphors into the mouth of *Macbeth*, as a mark of artifice and dissimulation, to show the difference between the studied language of hypocrisy and the natural outcries of sudden passion. This whole speech considered in this light, is a remarkable instance of judgment, as it consists entirely of antitheses and metaphors

## NOTE XXIV.

## ACT III. SCENE II.

*Macbeth*      OUR feais in *Banquo*  
 Stick deep, and in his royalty of nature  
 Reigns that which would be fear'd 'Tis much he  
      dares,  
 And to that dauntless temper of his mind,  
 He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour  
 To act in safety    There is none but he,  
 Whose being I do fear: and under him,  
 My genius is rebuk'd, (1) *as it is said,*  
*Anthony's was by Cæsar.* He chid the sisters,  
 When first they put the name of king upon me,  
 And bade them speak to him; then prophet-like,  
 They hail'd him father to a line of kings,  
 Upon my head they plac'd a fruitless crown,  
 And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,  
 Thence to be wiench'd with an unlineal hand,  
 No son of mine succeeding    If 'tis so,  
 For *Banquo's* issue have I 'fil'd my mind,  
 For them the gracious *Duncan* have I murder'd,  
 Put rancours in the vessel of my peace  
 Only for them, and mine eternal jewel  
 Given to the (2) common enemy of man,  
 To make them kings,- the seed of *Banquo* kings.  
 Rather than so, come fate into the list,  
 (3) And champion me to th' utterance

(1) As it is said,  
*Anthony* s was by *Cesar*

Though I would not often assume the critick's privilege, of being confident where certainty cannot be obtained, nor indulge myself too far in departing from the established reading, yet I cannot but propose the rejection of this passage, which I believe was an insertion of some player, that having so much learning as to discover to what *Shakespeare* alluded was not willing that his audience should be less knowing than himself, and has therefore weakened the author's sense by the intrusion of a remote and useless image into a speech bursting from a man wholly possessed with his own present condition, and therefore not at leisure to explain his own allusions to himself. If these words are taken away by which not only the thought but the numbers are injured the lines of *Shakespeare* close together without any traces of a breach

My genius is rebuk'd He chid the sisters

(2) The common enemy of man

It is always an entertainment to an inquisitive reader, to trace a sentiment to its original source, and therefore, though the term *enemy of man* applied to the devil is in itself natural and obvious, yet some may be pleased with being informed, that *Shakespeare* probably borrowed it from the first lines of the *Destruction of Troy*, a book which he is known to have read

That this remark may not appear too trivial, I shall take occasion from it to point out a beautiful passage of *Milton*, evidently copied from a book of no greater authority. in describing the gates of hell, book ii v 879 he says,

On a sudden open fly,  
With impetuous recoil and jarring sound,  
Th' infernal doors, and on their hinges grate  
Harsh thunder

In the history of *Don Bellianis*, when one of the knights approaches, as I remember, the castle of *Brandezar*, the gates are said to open *grating harsh thunder upon their brazen hinges*

(3)'— Come fate into the list,  
And champion me to th' utterance.

This passage will be best explained by translating it into the language from whence the only word of difficulty in it is borrowed *Que la destinée se rende en lice, et qu'elle me donne un défi a l'outrance* A challenge or a combat *a l'outrance*, to extremity, was a fixed term in the law of arms, used when the combatants engaged with an *odium internecinum*, an intention to destroy each other, in opposition to trials of skill at festivals, or on other occasions, where the contest was only for reputation or a prize The sense therefore is, *Let fate, that has fore-doom'd the exaltation of the sons of Banquo, enter the lists against me, with the utmost animosity, in defence of*  
its

*at o on decrees which I will endeavour to invalidate,  
whatever be the danger*

NOTE XXV

*Macbeth* At, in the catalogue, ye go for men,  
As hounds and grey hounds, mungrels, spaniels,  
cuis,  
Shoughs, water ruggs, and demy-wolves are clept  
All by the name of dogs

Though this is not the most sparkling passage in the play, and though the name of a dog is of no great importance, yet it may not be improper to remark, that there is no such species of dogs as *shoughs* mentioned by *Caus de Canibus Britannicis* or any other writer that has fallen into my hands nor is the word to be found in any dictionary which I have examined I therefore imagined that it is falsely printed for *slouths* a kind of slow hound bred in the southern parts of *England* but was informed by a lady, that it is more probably used either by mistake, or according to the orthography of that time, for *shocks*

NOTE XXVI

*Macbeth* In this hour at most,  
I will advise you where to plant yourselves  
Acquaint you with the perfect spy o' th time,  
The moment on't, for t must be done to night  
And something from the palace

What is meant by *the spy of the time*, it will be found difficult to explain, and therefore sense will be cheaply gained by a slight alteration. *Macbeth* is assuring the assassins that they shall not want directions to find *Banquo*, and therefore says,

*I will*

*Acquaint you with a perfect spy o' th' time.*

Accordingly a third murderer joins them afterwards at the place of action.

*Perfect* is *well instructed*, or *well informed*, as in this play,

Though in your state of honour I am *perfect*.

*Though I am well acquainted with your quality and rank.*

## NOTE XXVII.

### SCENE IV.

2d Murderer HE needs not to mistrust, since he delivers

Our offices and what we have to do,  
To the direction just.

Mr *Theobald* has endeavoured unsuccessfully to amend this passage, in which nothing is faulty but the punctuation. The meaning of this abrupt dialogue is this: The *perfect spy*, mentioned by *Macbeth*

# TRAGEDY OF MACBETH 101

*beth* in the foregoing scene has, before they enter upon the stage, given them the directions which were promised at the time of their agreement, and therefore one of the murderers observes, that, since *he has given them such exact information, he needs not doubt of their performance* Then by way of exhortation to his associates he cries out

To the direction just

*Now nothing remains but that we conform exactly to Macbeth's directions*

## N O T E XXVIII

### SCENE V

*Macbeth* You know your own degrees, sit down  
At first and last the hearty welcome

As this passage stands, not only the numbers are very imperfect, but the sense, if any can be found, weak and contemptible The numbers will be improved by reading

Sit down at first,  
And last a hearty welcome

But for *last* should then be written *next* I believe the true reading is

You know your own degrees, sit down —To first  
And last the hearty welcome

*All of whatever degree, from the highest to the lowest, may be assured that their visit is well received.*

## N O T E XXIX

*Macbeth*      THERE'S blood upon thy face.  
                   [*To the murderer aside at the door.*  
*Murderer*    'Tis Banquo's then  
*Macbeth*    'Tis better thee without, than he within.

The sense apparently requires that this passage should be read thus

'Tis better thee without, than *him* within

That is, *I am more pleased that the blood of Banquo should be on thy face, than in his body.*

## N O T E XXX

*Lady Macbeth*    PROPER stuff!  
 This is the very painting of your fear.  
   [*Aside to Macbeth.*  
 This is the an-diawn dagger which you said  
 Led you to *Duncan*    Oh, these flaws and starts,  
*Impostures to true fear*, would well become  
 A woman's story at a winter's fire,  
 Authoriz'd by her grandam    Shame itself!  
 Why do you make such faces? When all's done  
 You look but on a stool.

As

As *starts* can neither with propriety nor sense be called *impostures true to fear*, something else was undoubtedly intended by the author, who perhaps wrote

Those flows and starts,  
*Impostures true to fear* would well become  
A woman's story

These symptoms of terroure and amazement might better become *impostors true only to fear, might become a coward at the recital of such falshoods as no man could credit whose understanding was not weakened by his terroure tales told by a woman over a fire on the authority of her grandam*

# NOTE XXXI

*Macbeth* — LOVE and health to all!  
Then I'll sit down give me some wine, fill full—  
I drink to the general joy of the whole table,  
And to our dear friend *Banquo* whom we miss,  
Would he were here! to all, and him, we thirst,  
And all to all

Though this passage is, as it now stands, capable of more meanings than one none of them are very satisfactory, and therefore I am inclined to read it thus

To all and him, we thirst,  
And hail to all

*Macbeth*, being about to salute his company with a bumper, declares that he includes *Banquo*, though absent, in this act of kindness, and wishes *health* to all *Hail* or *heil* for *health* was in such continual use among the good-fellows of ancient times, that a drinker was called a *was-heiler*, or a *wisher of health*, and the liquor was termed *was-heil*, because *health* was so often *wished* over it. Thus in the lines of *Hanvil* the Monk,

*Jamque vagante scypho, discincto gutture was-heil*  
*Ingeminant was-heil. labor est plus perdere vini*  
*Quam sitis.*

These words were afterwards corrupted into *wassail* and *wassailer*.

## N O T E   XXXII.

*Macbeth*      CAN such things be,  
 And overcome us like a summer's cloud  
 Without our special wonder? You make me strange  
 Even to the disposition that I owe,  
 When now I think you can behold such sights,  
 And keep the natural ruby of your cheek,  
 When mine is blanched with fear.

This passage, as it now stands, is unintelligible, but may be restored to sense by a very slight alteration,

You make me strange  
 Ev'n to the disposition that I *know*.

*Though*

# TRAGEDY OF MACBETH 105

*Though I had before seen many instances of your courage, yet it now appears in a degree altogether new So that my long acquaintance with your disposition does not hinder me from that astonishment which novelty produces*

## NOTE XXXIII

It will have blood, they say blood will have blood,  
Stones have been known to move, and trees to  
speak,

Augurs, that understood relations, have  
By magpies, and by choughs, and rooks brought  
forth

The secret'st man in blood

In this passage the first line loses much of its force by the present punctuation *Macbeth* having considered the prodigy which has just appeared infers justly from it that the death of *Duncan* cannot pass unpunished,

*It will have blood,*

Then after a short pause, declares it as the general observation of mankind, that murderers cannot escape

*They say, blood will have blood*

Murderers, when they have practised all human means of security, are detected by supernatural directions

Augurs, that understand relations, &c

By the word *relation* is understood the *connexion* of effects with causes to *understand relations* as an *augur* is to know how those things *relate* to each other which have no visible combination or dependence

## NOTE XXXIV.

## SCENE VII

*Enter Lenox and another Lord*

As this tragedy like the rest of *Shakespeare's* is perhaps overstocked with personages, it is not easy to assign a reason, why a nameless character should be introduced here, since nothing is said that might not with equal propriety have been put into the mouth of any other disaffected man. I believe, therefore, that in the original copy, it was written with a very common form of contraction, *Lenox* and *An* for which the transcriber instead of *Lenox* and *Angus*, set down *Lenox* and *another Lord*. The author had indeed been more indebted to the transcriber's fidelity and diligence, had he committed no errors of greater importance

## NOTE XXXV.

## ACT IV. SCENE I

As this is the chief scene of enchantment in the play, it is proper in this place to observe, with how much judgment *Shakespeare* has selected all the circumstances of his infernal ceremonies, and how exactly he has conformed to common opinions and traditions.

Thrice the blinded cat hath mew'd.

The usual form in which familiar spirits are reported to converse with witches, is that of a cat A  
witch,

witch, who was tried about half a century before the time of *Shakespeare*, had a cat named *Rutterlin*, as the spirit of one of those witches was *Grimallin*, and when any mischief was to be done, she used to bid *Rutterlin* go and fly, but once when she would have sent *Rutterkin* to torment a daughter of the countess of *Rutland*, instead of going or flying he only cried *mew*, from which she discovered that the lady was out of his power, the power of witches being not universal, but limited, as *Shakespeare* has taken care to inculcate

Though his bark cannot be lost,  
Yet it shall be tempest tost

The common afflictions which the malice of witches produced were melancholy, fits and loss of flesh, which are threatened by one of *Shakespeare's* witches

Weary sev'n nights nine times nine  
Shall he dwindle, peak, and pine

It was likewise then practice to destroy the cattle of their neighbours, and the farmers have to this day many ceremonies to secure their cows and other cattle from witchcraft, but they seem to have been most suspected of malice against swine. *Shakespeare* has accordingly made one of his witches declare that she has been *killing swine*, and Dr *Harsenet* observes, that about that time, *a sow could not be ill of the measles nor a girl of the sullens, but some old woman was charged with witchcraft*

Toad that under the cold stone  
Days and nights has forty one

Swelter d

Swelter'd venom sleeping got,  
Boil thou first i' the charmed pot

Toads have likewise long lain under the reproach of being by some means cessary to witchcraft, for which reason *Shakespeare*, in the first scene of this play, calls one of the spirits *padocke* or *toad*, and now takes care to put a toad first into the pot. When *Vaninus* was seized at *Thoulouse*, there was found at his lodgings *ingens bufo vitro inclusus*, a great toad shut in a vial, upon which those that prosecuted him *veneficium exprobrabant*, charged him, I suppose, with witchcraft.

Fillet of a fenny snake  
In the cauldion boil and bake;  
Eye of newt, and toe of frog ,  
For a charm, &c

The propriety of these ingredients may be known by consulting the books *de Viribus Animalium* and *de Mirabilibus Mundi*, ascribed to *Albertus Magnus*, in which the reader, who has time and credulity, may discover very wonderful secrets.

Finger of birth-strangled babe,  
Ditch-deliver'd by a diab ,

It has been already mentioned in the law against witches, that they are supposed to take up dead bodies to use in enchantments, which was confessed by the woman whom King *James* examined, and who had of a dead body, that was divided in one of their assemblies, two fingers for her share. It is observable

able that *Shakespeare*, on this great occasion which involves the fate of a king, multiplies all the circumstances of horror. The babe whose finger is used, must be strangled in its birth, the grease must not only be human, but must have dropped from a gibbet, the gibbet of a murderer, and even the cow whose blood is used, must have offended nature by devouring her own farrow. These are touches of judgment and genius.

And now about the cauldron sing

Blue spirits and white,  
Black spirits and grey,  
Mingle, mingle, mingle,  
You that mingle may

And in a former part, ♪

Weird sisters hand in hand  
Thus do go about, about,  
Thrice to mine, and thrice to thine  
And thrice again to make up nine

These two passages I have brought together, because they both seem subject to the objection of too much levity for the solemnity of enchantment and may both be shown, by one quotation from *Camden's* account of *Ireland*, to be founded upon a practice really observed by the uncivilized natives of that country. 'When any one gets a fall, says the informer of *Camden* he starts up and turning three times to the right, digs a hole in the earth for they imagine that there is a spirit in the ground

## 110 OBSERVATIONS ON THE

“ ground , and if he falls sick in two or three days,  
 “ they send one of their women that is skilled in  
 “ that way to the place, where she says, I call thee  
 “ from the east, west, north, and south, from the  
 “ groves, the woods, the rivers, and the fens, from  
 “ the *fairies, red, black, white* ” There was likewise  
 a book written before the time of *Shakespeare*, de-  
 scribing, amongst other properties, the *colours* of  
 spirits.

Many other circumstances might be particular-  
 ized, in which *Shakespeare* has shown his judgment  
 and his knowledge.

### N O T E XXXVI.

#### SCENE II

*Macbeth* THOU art too like the spirit of *Banquo*,  
 down,

Thy crown does (1) sear my eye-balls, and thy (2) *hair*,  
 Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first,  
 A third is like the former

(1) The expression of *Macbeth*, that the *crown*  
*sears his eye-balls*, is taken from the method form-  
 erly practised of destroying the sight of captives or  
 competitors, by holding a burning bason before the  
 eye, which dried up its humidity

(2) As *Macbeth* expected to see a train of kings,  
 and was only enquiring from what race they would  
 proceed, he could not be surprised that the *hair* of  
 the second was *bound with gold* like that of the first ;  
 he was offended only that the second resembled the  
 first, as the first resembled *Banquo*, and therefore said,

And thy *air*,  
Thou other gold bound brow, is like the first

NOTE XXXVII

I WILL—give to the edge o' th' sword  
His wife his babes and all unfortunate souls  
That *trace him in his line*—no boasting like a fool,  
This deed I'll do before my purpose cool

Both the sense and measure of the third line which as it rhymes ought, according to the practice of this author to be regular, are at present injured by two superfluous syllables which may easily be removed by reading

souls  
That trace his line—no boasting like a fool

NOTE XXXVIII

SCENE III

Rosse DEAREST cousin

I pray you school yourself, but for your husband,  
He's noble wise judicious and best knows  
The fits o' th' time I dare not speak much farther,  
But cruel are the times when we are traitors,  
And do not know 't ourselves when we (1) *hold*  
*rumour*

*From what we fear*, yet know not what we fear  
But float upon a wild and violent sea  
Each way and (2) *more* I'll take my leave of you,  
Shall

Shall not be long but I'll be here again:  
 Things at the worst will cease, or else climb upwards  
 To what they were before: my pretty cousin,  
 Blessing upon you.

(1) When we hold rumour  
 From what we fear, yet know not what we fear.

The present reading seems to afford no sense, and therefore some critical experiments may be properly tried upon it, though, the verses being without any connexion, there is room for suspicion, that some intermediate lines are lost, and that the passage is therefore irretrievable. If it be supposed that the fault arises only from the corruption of some words, and that the traces of the true reading are still to be found, the passage may be changed thus:

When we *bode ruin*  
 From what we fear, yet know not what we fear.

Or in a sense very applicable to the occasion of the conference,

When the *bold running*  
 From what they fear, yet know not what they fear.

(2) But float upon a wild and violent sea  
 Each way, and move.

That he who *floats* upon a *rough sea* must *move* is evident, too evident for *Shakespeare* so emphatically to assert. The line therefore is to be written thus:

Each way, and move I'll take my leave of you.  
*Rosse*

*Rosse* is about to proceed, but finding himself overpowered by his tenderness, breaks off abruptly, for which he makes a short apology and retires

N O T E XXXIX

SCENE IV

*Malcolm* LET us seek out some desolate shade,  
and there

Weep our sad bosoms empty

*Macduff* Let us rather

Hold fast the mortal sword, and like good men,  
Bestride our *downfal birth doom* each new morn,  
New widows howl, new orphans cry, new sorrows  
Strike heaven on the face that it resounds  
As if it felt with *Scotland*, and yell'd out  
Like syllables of dolour

He who can discover what is meant by him that earnestly exhorts him to *bestride* his *downfal birth-doom*, is at liberty to adhere to the present text, but those who are willing to confess that such counsel would to them be unintelligible, must endeavour to discover some reading less obscure. It is probable that *Shakespeare* wrote,

Like good men,  
Bestride our *downfaln birthdom*

The illusion is to a man from whom something valuable is about to be taken by violence and who, that he may defend it without encumbrance, lays it on the ground, and stands over it with his weapon

in his hand Our birthdom, or birthright, says he, lies on the ground, let us, like men who are to fight for what is dearest to them, not abandon it, but stand over it and defend it This is a strong picture of obstinate resolution

*Birthdom* for *birthright* is formed by the same analogy with *masterdom* in this play, signifying the *privileges or rights of a master*

Perhaps it might be *birth-dame* for *mother*, let us stand over our mother that lies bleeding on the ground.

#### N O T E XL

*Malcolm* Now we'll together, and the *chance of goodness*

Be like our warranted quarrel

The *chance of goodness*, as it is commonly read, conveys no sense If there be not some more important error in the passage, it should at least be pointed thus.

And the chance, of goodness,  
Be like our warranted quarrel,

That is, May the event be, of the goodness of heaven [*pro justitia divina*] answerable to the cause

But I am inclined to believe that *Shakespeare* wrote,

And the chance, O goodness,  
Be like our warranted quarrel

This some of his transcribers wrote with a small *o*, which another imagined to mean *of*. If we adopt  
this

this reading, the sense will be *and O thou sovereign goodness to whom we now appeal, may our fortune answer to our cause*

N O T E XLI

A C T V SCENE III

*Macbeth* BRING me no more reports, let them fly all,

Till *Birnam* wood remove to *Dunsinane*,  
I cannot trunt with fear What s the boy *Malcolm*?  
Was he not born of woman?

Fly false *Thanes*,  
And mingle with the *English* epicures

In the first line of this speech, the proper pauses are not observed in the present editions

Bring me no more reports—let them fly all—  
*Tell me not any more of desertions—Let all my subjects leave me—I am safe till &c*

The reproach of epicurism, on which Mr Theobald has bestowed a note, is nothing more than a natural invective uttered by an inhabitant of a barren country against those who have more opportunities of luxury

N O T E XLII

*Macbeth* I HAVE liv'd long enough my way of life  
Is fall'n into the sear, the yellow leaf

## 116 OBSERVATIONS ON THE

As there is no relation between the *way of life*, and *fallen into the sear*, I am inclined to think, that the *W* is only an *M* inverted, and that it was originally written, My *May* of life

*I am now passed from the spring to the autumn of my days, but I am without those comforts that should succeed the sprightliness of bloom, and support me in this melancholy season*

### N O T E XLIII.

#### SCENE IV

*Malcolm* 'Tis his main hope  
For which there is *advantage to be given*,  
Both more or less have given him the revolt,  
And none serve with him but constrained things,  
Whose hearts are absent too

The impropriety of the expression *advantage to be given*, instead of *advantage given*, and the disagreeable repetition of the word *given* in the next line, incline me to read,

Where there is *a vantage to be gone*,  
Both more and less have given him the revolt.

*Advantage* or *vantage* in the time of *Shakespeare* signified *opportunity*

*More and less* is the same with *greater and less*  
So in the interpolated *Manderill*, a book of that age, there is a chapter of *India the more and the less*.

N O T E XLIV

SCENE V

*Macbeth* — WHEREFORE was that cry?

*Seyton* The queen is dead

*Macbeth* She should (1) have died hereafter,  
There would have been a time for such a word  
To morrow, and to morrow, and to morrow,  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,  
To the last syllable of (2) recorded time,  
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow

She should have died hereafter

There would have been a time for such a word

This passage has very justly been suspected of being corrupt. It is not apparent for what word there would have been a time, and that there would or would not be a time for any word, seems not a consideration of importance sufficient to transport *Macbeth* into the following exclamation. I read therefore,

(1) She should have died hereafter

There would have been a time for—such a world!—  
To morrow, &c

It is a broken speech in which only part of the thought is expressed, and may be paraphrased thus

*The queen is dead Macbeth. Her death should have been deferred to some more peaceful hour, had she lived longer, there would at length have been a time for the honours due to her as a queen, and that respect which I owe her for her fidelity and love. Such is the world such is the condition of human life, that we always think to-morrow will be happier than to-day, but to-morrow and to-morrow steals over us unenjoyed and unregarded, and we still linger in the same expectation to the moment appointed for our end. All these days, which have thus passed away, have sent multitudes of fools to the grave, who were engrossed by the same dream of future felicity, and, when life was departing from them were like me reckoning on to-morrow.*

(2) To the last syllable of recorded time.

*Recorded time* seems to signify the time fixed in the decrees of heaven for the period of life. The *record of futurity* is indeed no accurate expression, but as we only know transactions past or present, the language of men affords no term for the volumes of prescience, in which future events may be supposed to be written.

#### N O T E XLV.

*Macbeth* If thou speak'st false,  
Upon the next tiec shalt thou háng alive  
Till famine cling thee if thy speech be sooth,  
I care not if thou dost for me as much  
I pull in resolution, and begin  
To doubt th' equivocation of the fiend,

That

# TRAGEDY OF MACBETH 119

That lies like truth "Fear not till *Birnam* wood  
Do come to *Dunsinane*, ' and now a wood  
Comes toward *Dunsinane*

*I pull* in resolution

Though this is the reading of all the editions, yet  
as it is a phrase without either example, elegance, or  
propriety, it is surely better to read

*I pall* in resolution

*I languish* in my constancy, my confidence begins  
to forsake me It is scarcely necessary to observe how  
easily *pall* might be changed into *pull* by a negligent  
writer, or mistaken for it by an unskilful printer

## NOTE XLVI

### SCENE VIII

Seyward HAD I as many sons as I have hairs,  
I would not wish them to a surer death  
And so his knell is knoll'd

This incident is thus related from *Henry of Huntingdon* by *Camden* in his *Remains*, from which our  
author probably copied it

When *Seyward*, the martial Earl of *Northumberland*  
understood that his son, whom he had sent in  
service against the *Scotchmen*, was slain, he demanded

whether his wound were in the fore part or hinder part of his body When it was answered in the fore part, he replied, " I am right glad, neither wish I " any other death to me or mine "

AFTER the foregoing pages were printed, the late edition of *Shakespeare*, ascribed to Sir *Thomas Hanmer*, fell into my hands, and it was therefore convenient for me to delay the publication of my remarks, till I had examined whether they were not anticipated by similar observations, or precluded by better I therefore read over this tragedy, but found that the editor's apprehension is of a cast so different from mine, that he appears to find no difficulty in most of those passages which I have represented as unintelligible, and has therefore passed smoothly over them, without any attempt to alter or explain them

Some of the lines with which I had been perplexed, have been indeed so fortunate as to attract his regard, and it is not without all the satisfaction which it is usual to express on such occasions, that I find an entire agreement between us in substituting [see Note II ] *quarrel* for *quarry*, and in explaining the adage of the *cat*, [Note XVII ] But this pleasure is, like most others, known only to be regretted, for I have the unhappiness to find no such conformity with regard to any other passage.

# TRAGEDY OF MACBETH 121

The line which I have endeavoured to amend, Note XI is likewise attempted by the new editor, and is perhaps the only passage in the play in which he has not submissively admitted the emendations of foregoing critics. Instead of the common reading,

Doing every thing  
Safe towards your love and honour,

he has published,

Doing every thing  
*Shap'd* towards your love and honour

This alteration, which, like all the rest attempted by him, the reader is expected to admit, without any reason alleged in its defence, is in my opinion, more plausible than that of Mr *Theobald* whether it is right, I am not to determine

In the passage which I have altered in Note XL an emendation is likewise attempted in the late edition, where, for

—And the chance *of* goodness  
Be like our warranted quarrel,

is substituted —And the chance *in* goodness— whether with more or less elegance, dignity and propriety than the reading which I have offered, I must again decline the province of deciding

Most of the other emendations which he has endeavoured, whether with good or bad fortune are too trivial to deserve mention. For surely the weapons of criticism ought not to be blunted against an editor,

122 OBSERVATIONS ON THE

editor, who can imagine that he is restoring poetry, while he is amusing himself with alterations like these,

For - *This is the serjeant,  
Who like a good and hardy soldier fought,*

*This is the seigeant, who  
Like a right good and hardy soldier fought.*

For Dismay'd not this  
Our captains *Macbeth* and *Banquo*? Yes,

Dismay'd not this  
Our captains *brave Macbeth* and *Banquo*? Yes

Such harmless industry may, surely, be forgiven, if it cannot be praised: may he therefore never want a monosyllable, who can use it with such wonderful dexterity

*Rumpatur quisquis rumpitur invidia!*

The rest of this edition I have not read, but, from the little that I have seen, think it not dangerous to declare that, in my opinion, its pomp recommends it more than its accuracy. There is no distinction made between the ancient reading, and the innovations of the editor, there is no reason given for any of the alterations which are made, the emendations of former critics are adopted without any acknowledgment, and few of the difficulties are removed which have hitherto embarrassed the readers of *Shakespeare*.

I would

## TRAGEDY OF MACBETH 123

I would not however, be thought to insult the editor, nor to censure him with too much petulance, for having siled in little things of whom I have been told, that he excels in greater. But I may without indecency, observe, that no man should attempt to teach others what he has never learned himself, and that tho' who, like *Themistocles*, have studied the arts of policy, and *can teach a small state how to grow great* should like him, disdain to labour in trifles, and consider petty accomplishments as below their ambition\*.

\* To this article when first printed Dr Johnson affixed *Proposals for a new edition of Shakespear*. These he afterwards dilated into the following larger Pro pectus

C.

## P R O P O S A L S

FOR PRINTING THE

DRAMATICK WORKS

OF

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

Printed in the Year 1756

WHEN the works of *Shakespeare* are, after so many editions, again offered to the Publick, it will doubtless be inquired, why *Shakespeare* stands in more need of critical assistance than any other of the *English* writers, and what are the deficiencies of the late attempts, which another editor may hope to supply?

The business of him that republishes an ancient book is, to correct what is corrupt, and to explain what is obscure. To have a text corrupt in many places, and in many doubtful, is, among the authors that have written since the use of types, almost peculiar to *Shakespeare*. Most writers, by publishing their own works, prevent all various readings, and preclude all conjectural criticism. Books indeed are sometimes published after the death of him who produced them, but they are better secured from corruption than these unfortunate compositions.

positions. They subsist in a single copy, written or revised by the author, and the faults of the printed volume can be only faults of one descent.

But of the works of *Shakespeare* the condition has been far different. He sold them, not to be printed, but to be played. They were immediately copied for the actors, and multiplied by transcript after transcript, vitiated by the blunders of the penman, or changed by the affectation of the player, perhaps enlarged to introduce a jest or mutilated to shorten the representation. And printed at last without the concurrence of the author, without the consent of the proprietor, from compilations made by chance or by stealth out of the separate parts written for the theatre. And thus thrust into the world surreptitiously and hastily they suffered another deprivation from the ignorance and negligence of the printers, as every man who knows the state of the press in that age will readily conceive.

It is not easy for invention to bring together so many causes concurring to vitiate the text. No other author ever gave up his works to fortune and time with so little care. No books could be left in hands so likely to injure them, as plays frequently acted, yet continued in manuscript. No other transcribers were likely to be so little qualified for their task as those who copied for the stage at a time when the lower ranks of the people were universally illiterate. No other editions were made from fragments so minutely broken and so fortuitously reunited. And in no other age was the art of printing in such unskilful hands.

With

With the causes of corruption that make the revival of *Shakespeare's* dramatick pieces necessary, may be enumerated the causes of obscurity, which may be partly imputed to his age, and partly to himself

When a writer outlives his contemporaries, and remains almost the only unforgotten name of a distant time, he is necessarily obscure. Every age has its modes of speech, and its cast of thought, which, though easily explained when there are many books to be compared with each other, become sometimes unintelligible and always difficult, when there are no parallel passages that may conduce to their illustration. *Shakespeare* is the first considerable author of sublime or familiar dialogue in our language. Of the books which he read, and from which he formed his style, some perhaps have perished, and the rest are neglected. His imitations are therefore unnoted, his allusions are undiscovered, and many beauties, both of pleasantry and greatness, are lost with the objects to which they were united, as the figures vanish when the canvass has decayed.

It is the great excellence of *Shakespeare*, that he drew his scenes from nature, and from life. He copied the manners of the world then passing before him, and has more allusions than other poets to the traditions and superstition of the vulgar, which must therefore be traced before he can be understood.

He wrote at a time when our poetical language was yet unformed, when the meaning of our phrases was yet in fluctuation, when words were adopted at pleasure

pleasure from the neighbouring languages and while the *Saxon* was still visibly mingled in our diction. The reader is therefore embarrassed at once with dead and with foreign languages with obsolescence and innovation. In that age, as in all others, fashion produced phraseology, which succeeding fashion swept away before its meaning was generally known, or sufficiently authorized and in that age, above all others, experiments were made upon our language, which distorted its combinations, and disturbed its uniformity.

If *Shakespeare* has difficulties above other writers it is to be imputed to the nature of his work which required the use of the common colloquial language, and consequently admitted many phrases allusive, elliptical and proverbial such as we speak and hear every hour without observing them, and of which, being now familiar we do not suspect that they can ever grow uncouth, or that being now obvious they can ever seem remote.

These are the principal causes of the obscurity of *Shakespeare* to which might be added the fulness of idea which might sometimes load his words with more sentiment than they could conveniently convey, and that rapidity of imagination which might hurry him to a second thought before he had fully explained the first. But my opinion is, that very few of his lines were difficult to his audience and that he used such expressions as were then common, though the paucity of contemporary writers makes them now seem peculiar.

Authors are often praised for improvement, or blamed for innovation, with very little justice, by those

those who read few other books of the same age. *Addison* himself has been so unsuccessful in enumerating the words with which *Milton* has enriched our language, as perhaps not to have named one of which *Milton* was the author, and *Bentley* has yet more unhappily praised him as the introducer of those ellisions into *English* poetry, which had been used from the first essays of versification among us, and which *Milton* was indeed the last that practised.

Another impediment, not the least vexatious to the commentator, is the exactness with which *Shakespeare* followed his authors. Instead of dilating his thoughts into generalities, and expressing incidents with poetical latitude, he often combines circumstances unnecessary to his main design, only because he happened to find them together. Such passages can be illustrated only by him who has read the same story in the very book which *Shakespeare* consulted.

He that undertakes an edition of *Shakespeare*, has all these difficulties to encounter, and all these obstructions to remove.

The corruptions of the text will be corrected by a careful collation of the oldest copies, by which it is hoped that many restorations may yet be made: at least it will be necessary to collect and note the variation as materials for future critics, for it very often happens that a wrong reading has affinity to the right.

In this part all the present editions are apparently and intentionally defective. The critics did not so much as wish to facilitate the labour of those that followed them. The same books are still to be compared,

compared the work that has been done is to be done again, and no single edition will supply the reader with a text on which he can rely as the best copy of the works of *Shakespeare*

The edition now proposed will at least have this advantage over others. It will exhibit all the observable varieties of all the copies that can be found, that, if the reader is not satisfied with the editor's determination, he may have the means of choosing better for himself

Where all the books are evidently vitiated, and collation can give no assistance, then begins the task of critical sagacity and some changes may well be admitted in a text never settled by the author, and so long exposed to caprice and ignorance. But nothing shall be imposed, as in the *Oxford* edition without notice of the alteration, nor shall conjecture be wantonly or unnecessarily indulged

It has been long found, that very specious emendations, do not equally strike all minds with conviction, nor even the same mind at different times and therefore though perhaps many alterations may be proposed as eligible, very few will be obtained as certain. In a language so ungrammatical as the *English* and so licentious as that of *Shakespeare*, emendatory criticism is always hazardous nor can it be allowed to any man who is not particularly versed in the writings of that age, and particularly studious of his author's diction. There is danger lest peculiarities should be mistaken for corruptions, and passages rejected as unintelligible which a narrow mind happens not to understand

All the former criticks have been so much employed on the correction of the text, that they have not sufficiently attended to the elucidation of passages obscured by accident or time. The editor will endeavour to read the books which the author read, to trace his knowledge to its source, and compare his copies with their originals. If in this part of his design he hopes to attain any degree of superiority to his predecessors, it must be considered, that he has the advantage of their labours, that part of the work being already done, more care is naturally bestowed on the other part, and that, to declare the truth, Mr *Rowe* and Mr *Pope* were very ignorant of the ancient *English* literature, Dr *Warburton* was detained by more important studies, and Mr *Theobald*, if I am just to his memory, considered learning only as an instrument of gain, and made no further inquiry after his author's meaning, when once he had notes sufficient to embellish his page with the expected decorations.

With regard to obsolete or peculiar diction, the editor may perhaps claim some degree of confidence, having had more motives to consider the whole extent of our language than any other man from its first formation. He hopes that, by comparing the works of *Shakespeare* with those of writers who lived at the same time, immediately preceded, or immediately followed him, he shall be able to ascertain his ambiguities, disentangle his intricacies, and recover the meaning of words now lost in the darkness of antiquity.

When therefore any obscurity arises from an allusion to some other book, the passage will be quoted

# GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE PLAYS OF SHAKESPEARE

## THE FIRST

IT is observed of *The Tempest*, that its plan is regular, thus the author of *The Revisal*\* thinks, what I think too, an accidental effect of the story, not intended or regarded by our author. But whatever might be *Shakespeare's* intention in forming or adopting the plot, he has made it instrumental to the production of many characters diversified with boundless invention, and preserved with profound skill in nature, extensive knowledge of opinions, and accurate observation of life. In a single drama we here exhibited princes, courtiers, and sailors, all speaking in their real characters. There is the agency of airy spirits, and of an earthly goblin, the operations of magick, the tumults of a storm the adventures of a desert island, the native effusion of untrought affection, the punishment of guilt, and the final happiness of the pair for whom our passions and reason are equally interested.

\* Mr Heath who wrote a revisal of *Shakespeares* text, published in 8vo circa 1760

## TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

In this play there is a strange mixture of knowledge and ignorance, of care and negligence. The versification is often excellent, the allusions are learned and just, but the author conveys his heroes by sea from one inland town to another in the same country, he places the emperor at *Milan*, and sends his young men to attend him, but never mentions him more; he makes *Protheus*, after an interview with *Silvia*, say he has only seen her picture, and, if we may credit the old copies, he has by mistaking places, left his scenery inextricable. The reason of all this confusion seems to be that he took his story from a novel, which he sometimes followed, and sometimes forsook, sometimes remembered, and sometimes forgot.

That this play is rightly attributed to *Shakespeare*, I have little doubt. If it be taken from him, to whom shall it be given? This question may be asked of all the disputed plays, except *Titus Andronicus*, and it will be found more credible, that *Shakespeare* might sometimes sink below his highest flights, than that any other should rise up to his lowest.

## MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR.

Of this play there is a tradition preserved by Mr *Roue*, that it was written at the command of queen *Elizabeth*, who was so delighted with the character of *Falstaff*, that she wished it to be diffused through more plays, but suspecting that it might pall by  
continued

continued uniformity, directed the poet to diversify his manner, by showing him in love. No task is harder than that of writing to the ideas of another. *Shakespeare* knew what the queen, if the story be true seems not to have known that by any real passion of tenderness, the selfish craft, the careless jollity, and the lazy luxury of *Falstaff* must have suffered so much abatement, that little of his former cast would have remained. *Falstaff* could not love, but by ceasing to be *Falstaff*. He could only counterfeit love, and his professions could be prompted, not by the hope of pleasure, but of money. Thus the poet approached as near as he could to the work enjoined him, yet having perhaps in the former plays completed his own idea seems not to have been able to give *Falstaff* all his former power of entertainment.

This comedy is remarkable for the variety and number of the personages, who exhibit more characters appropriated and discriminated, than perhaps can be found in any other play.

Whether *Shakespeare* was the first that produced upon the *English* stage the effect of language distorted and deprived by provincial or foreign pronunciation I cannot certainly decide. This mode of forming ridiculous characters can confer praise only on him, who originally discovered it, for it requires not much of either wit or judgment its success must be derived almost wholly from the player but its power in a skilful mouth, even he that despises it, is unable to resist.

The conduct of this drama is deficient the action begins and ends often before the conclusion,

and the different parts might change places without inconvenience, but its general power, that power by which all works of genius shall finally be tried, is such, that perhaps it never yet had reader or spectator, who did not think it too soon at an end.

#### MEASURE FOR MEASURE.

There is perhaps not one of *Shakespeare's* plays more darkened than this, by the peculiarities of its author, and the unskillfulness of its editors, by distortions of phrase, or negligence of transcription.

The novel of *Giraldu Cynthio*, from which *Shakespeare* is supposed to have borrowed this fable, may be read in *Shakespeare illustrated*, elegantly translated, with remarks, which will assist the enquirer to discover how much absurdity *Shakespeare* has admitted or avoided.

I cannot but suspect that some other had new-modelled the novel of *Cynthio*, or written a story which in some particulars resembled it, and that *Cynthio* was not the author whom *Shakespeare* immediately followed. The emperor in *Cynthio* is named *Maximine*, the duke, in *Shakespeare's* enumeration of the persons of the drama, is called *Vincentio*. This appears a very slight remark, but since the duke has no name in the play, nor is ever mentioned but by his title, why should he be called *Vincentio* among the persons, but because the name was copied from the story, and placed superfluously at the head of the list by the mere habit of transcription? It is therefore likely that there was then a story of *Vincentio* duke of *Vienna*, different from that of *Maximine* emperor of the Romans.

Of

## SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS 1201

Of this play the light or comick part is very natural and pleasing, but the grave scenes, if a few passages be excepted, have more labour than elegance. The plot is rather intricate than artful. The time of the action is indefinite, some time, we know not how much must have elapsed between the recess of the duke and the imprisonment of *Claudio*, for he must have learned the story of *Mariana* in his disguise, or he delegated his power to a man already known to be corrupted. The unities of action and place are sufficiently preserved.

## LOVE'S LABOURS LOST

In this play, which all the editors have concurred to censure, and some have rejected as unworthy of our poet, it must be confessed that there are many passages mean, childish, and vulgar, and some which ought not to have been exhibited, as we are told they were to a maiden queen. But there are scattered through the whole many sparks of genius, nor is there any play that has more evident marks of the hand of *Shakespeare*.

## MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Wild and fantastical as this play is, all the parts in their various mode are well written, and give the kind of pleasure which the author designed. Furies in his time were much in fashion, common tradition had made them familiar, and *Spenser's* poem had made them great.

## MERCHANT OF VENICE

It has been lately discovered, that this fable is taken from a story in the *Pecorone* of *Giocanni Fiorentino*, a novelist, who wrote in 1378. The story has been published in *English*, and I have epitomized the translation. The translator is of opinion, that the choice of the caskets is borrowed from a tale of *Boccaccio*, which I have likewise abridged, though I believe that *Shakespeare* must have had some other novel in view.

Of the *MERCHANT OF VENICE* the style is even and easy, with few peculiarities of diction, or anomalies of construction. The comick part raises laughter, and the serious fixes expectation. The probability of either one or the other story cannot be maintained. The union of two actions in one event is in this drama eminently happy. *Dryden* was much pleased with his own address in connecting the two plots of his *Spanish Friar*, which yet, I believe, the critick will find excelled by this play.

## AS YOU LIKE IT

Of this play the fable is wild and pleasing. I know not how the ladies will approve the facility with which both *Rosalind* and *Celia* give away their hearts. To *Celia* much may be forgiven for the heroism of her friendship. The character of *Jaques* is natural and well preserved. The comick dialogue is very sprightly, with less mixture of low buffoonery than in some other plays. and the graver part is elegant and harmonious. By hastening to the end of his work, *Shakespeare* suppressed the  
 dialogue

dialogue between the usurper and the hermit, and lost in opportunity of exhibiting a moral lesson in which he might have found matter worthy of his highest powers

## TAMING OF THE SHREW

Of this play the two plots are so well united, that they can hardly be called two without injury to the art with which they are interwoven. The attention is entertained with all the variety of a double plot, yet is not distracted by unconnected incidents

The part between *Katherine* and *Petruchio* is eminently sprightly and diverting. At the marriage of *Bianca* the arrival of the real father, perhaps, produces more perplexity than pleasure. The whole play is very popular and diverting

## ALLS WELL THAT ENDS WELL

This play has many delightful scenes, though not sufficiently probable, and some happy characters, though not new, nor produced by any deep knowledge of human nature. *Parolles* is a boisterous and a coward such as has always been the port of the stage, but perhaps never raised more laughter or contempt than in the hands of *Shakespeare*

I cannot reconcile my heart to *Bertram*, a man noble without generosity, and young without truth, who marries *Helen* as a coward, and leaves her as a profligate when she is dead by his unkindness, sneaks home to a second marriage, is accused  
by

## 204 GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON

by a woman whom he has wronged, defends himself by falsehood, and is dismissed to happiness.

The story of *Bertram* and *Diana* had been told before of *Mariana* and *Angelo*, and, to confess the truth, scarcely merited to be heard a second time.

### T W E L F T H - N I G H T

This play is in the graver part elegant and easy, and in some of the lighter scenes exquisitely humorous. *Ague-chick* is drawn with great propriety, but his character is, in a great measure, that of natural fatuity, and is therefore not the proper prey of a satirist. The soliloquy of *Maholio* is truly comick, he is betrayed to ridicule merely by his pride. The marriage of *Olivia*, and the succeeding perplexity, though well enough contrived to divert on the stage, wants credibility, and fails to produce the proper instruction required in the drama, as it exhibits no just picture of life.

### W I N T E R ' S   T A L E

The story of this play is taken from the pleasant *History of Donastus and Faunia*, written by *Robert Greene*.

This play, as *Dr Warburton* justly observes, is, with all its absurdities, very entertaining. The character of *Autolycus* is very naturally conceived, and strongly represented.

### M A C B E T H

This play is deservedly celebrated for the propriety of its fictions, and solemnity, grandeur, and variety of its action, but it has no nice discriminations

nations of character, the events are too great to admit the influence of particular dispositions and the course of the action necessarily determines the conduct of the agents

The danger of ambition is well described, and I know not whether it may not be said, in defence of some parts which now seem improbable that in *Shakespeare's* time it was necessary to warn credulity against vain and illusive predictions

The passions are directed to their true end *Lady Macbeth* is merely detested, and though the courage of *Macbeth* preserves some esteem, yet every reader rejoices at his fall

#### KING JOHN

The tragedy of *King John* though not written with the utmost power of *Shakespeare*, is varied with a very pleasing interchange of incidents and characters. The lady's grief is very affecting, and the character of the bastard contains that mixture of greatness and levity which this author delighted to exhibit

#### KING RICHARD II

This play is extracted from the *Chronicle of Holingshed*, in which many passages may be found which *Shakespeare* has, with very little alteration, transplanted into his scenes, particularly a speech of the bishop of *Carlisle* in defence of *King Richard's* unalienable right, and immunity from human jurisdiction

*Jonson* who in his *Catiline* and *Sejanus*, has inserted many speeches from the *Roman* historians, was,

was perhaps induced to that practice by the example of *Shakespeare*, who had condescended sometimes to copy more ignoble writers. But *Shakespeare* had more of his own than *Jonson*, and if he sometimes was willing to spare his labour, showed by what he performed at other times, that his extracts were made by choice or idleness rather than necessity.

This play is one of those which *Shakespeare* has apparently revised, but as success in works of invention is not always proportionate to labour, it is not finished at last with the happy force of some other of his tragedies, nor can be said much to affect the passions, or enlarge the understanding.

#### KING HENRY IV. PART II

I fancy every reader, when he ends this play, cries out with *Desdemona*, "O most lame and impotent conclusion!" As this play was not, to our knowledge, divided into acts by the author, I could be content to conclude it with the death of *Henry the Fourth*.

In that Jerusalem shall Harry die.

These scenes, which now make the fifth act of *Henry the Fourth*, might then be the first of *Henry the Fifth*, but the truth is, that they do unite very commodiously to either play. When these plays were represented, I believe they ended as they are now ended in the books, but *Shakespeare* seems to have designed that the whole series of action from the beginning of *Richard the Second*, to the end of *Henry the Fifth*, should be considered

by the reader as one work, upon one plan, only broken into parts by the necessity of exhibition

None of *Shakespeare's* plays are more read than the *First and Second Parts of Henry the Fourth*. Perhaps no author has ever in two plays afforded so much delight. The great events are interesting, for the fate of kingdoms depends upon them, the slighter occurrences are diverting, and, except one or two sufficiently probable, the incidents are multiplied with wonderful fertility of invention, and the characters diversified with the utmost nicety of discernment, and the profoundest skill in the nature of man.

The prince who is the hero both of the comick and tragick part, is a young man of great abilities and violent passions, whose sentiments are right, though his actions are wrong, whose virtues are obscured by negligence, and whose understanding is dissipated by levity. In his idle hours he is rather loose than wicked, and when the occasion forces out his latent qualities, he is great without effort and brave without tumult. The trisler is roused into a hero, and the hero again reposes in the trisler. This character is great, original, and just.

*Percy* is a rugged soldier, cholerick, and quarrelsome, and has only the soldier's virtues, generosity and courage.

But *Falstaff* unimitated, unimitable *Falstaff*, how shall I describe thee? Thou compound of sense and vice, of sense which may be admired, but not esteemed, of vice which may be despised, but hardly detested. *Falstaff* is a character loaded with faults, and with those faults which naturally produce

produce contempt. He is a thief and a glutton, a coward and a boaster, always ready to cheat the weak, and prey upon the poor, to terrify the timorous, and insult the defenceless. At once obsequious and malignant, he satiates in their absence those with whom he lives by flattering. He is familiar with the prince only as an agent of vice, but of this familiarity he is so proud, as not only to be supercilious and haughty with common men, but to think his interest of importance to the duke of *Lancaster*. Yet the man thus corrupt, thus despicable, makes himself necessary to the prince that despises him, by the most pleasing of all qualities, perpetual gayety, by an unfailing power of exciting laughter, which is the more freely indulged, as his wit is not of the splendid or ambitious kind, but consists in easy scapes and sallies of levity, which make sport, but raise no envy. It must be observed, that he is stained with no enormous or sanguinary crimes, so that his licentiousness is not so offensive but that it may be born for his mirth.

The moral to be drawn from this representation is, that no man is more dangerous than he that, with a will to corrupt, hath the power to please; and that neither wit nor honesty ought to think themselves safe with such a companion, when they see *Henry* seduced by *Falstaff*.

#### KING HENRY V.

This play has many scenes of high dignity, and many of easy merriment. The character of the king is well supported, except in his courtship, where he has neither the vivacity of *Hal*, nor the grandeur of *Henry*. The humour of *Pistol* is very  
happily

happily continued his character has perhaps been the model of all the bullies that have yet appeared on the *English* stage

The lines given to the Chorus have many admirers but the truth is, that in them a little may be praised and much must be forgiven nor can it be easily discovered why the intelligence given by the Chorus is more necessary in this play than in many others where it is omitted The great defect of this play is the emptiness and narrowness of the last act, which a very little diligence might have easily voided

#### KING HENRY VI PART I

Of this play there is no copy earlier than that of the folio in 1623 though the two succeeding parts are extant in two editions in quarto That the second and third parts were published witho it the first, may be admitted as no weak proof that the copies were surreptitiously obtained and that the printers of that time gave the publick those plays not such as the author designed but such as they could get them That this play was written before the two others is indubitably collected from the series of events that it was written and played before Henry the Fifth is apparent, because in the epilogue there is mention made of this play, and not of the other parts

Henry the Sixth in swaddling bands crown'd king  
Whose state so many had the managing  
That they lost France and made his England bleed  
Which oft our stage hath shewn

*France* is lost in this play The two following contain, as the old title imports, the contention of the houses of *York* and *Lancaster*

The second and third parts of *Henry VI* were printed in 1600 When *Henry V* was written, we know not, but it was printed likewise in 1600, and therefore before the publication of the first part: the first part of *Henry VI* had been often shown on the stage, and would certainly have appeared in its place had the author been the publisher.

#### KING HENRY VI PART III.

The three parts of *Henry VI* are suspected, by Mr *Theobald*, of being supposititious, and are declared, by Dr. *Warburton*, to be certainly not *Shakespeare's* Mr. *Theobald's* suspicion arises from some obsolete words, but the phraseology is like the rest of our author's style, and single words, of which however I do not observe more than two, can conclude little

Dr *Warburton* gives no reason, but I suppose him to judge upon deeper principles and more comprehensive views, and to draw his opinion from the general effect and spirit of the composition, which he thinks inferior to the other historical plays

From mere inferiority nothing can be inferred, in the productions of wit there will be inequality. Sometimes judgment will err, and sometimes the matter itself will defeat the artist Of every author's works one will be the best, and one will be the worst The colours are not equally pleasing, nor the attitudes equally graceful, in all the pictures of *Titian* or *Reynolds*.

Dissimilitude

Dissimilitude of style, and heterogeneousness of sentiment, may sufficiently show that a work does not really belong to the reputed author. But in these plays no such marks of spuriousness are found. The diction, the versification, and the figures, are *Shakespeare's*. These plays, considered without regard to characters and incidents, merely as narratives in verse, are more happily conceived, and more accurately finished than those of *King John*, *Richard II* or the tragick scenes of *Henry IV* and *V*. If we take these plays from *Shakespeare*, to whom shall they be given? What author of that age had the same easiness of expression and fluency of numbers?

Having considered the evidence given by the plays themselves, and found it in their favour, let us now enquire what corroboration can be gained from other testimony. They are ascribed to *Shakespeare* by the first editors whose attestation may be received in questions of fact, however unskilfully they superintended their edition. They seem to be declared genuine by the voice of *Shakespeare* himself, who refers to the second play in his epilogue to *Henry V* and apparently connects the first act of *Richard III* with the last of the third part of *Henry VI*. If it be objected that the plays were popular, and that therefore he alluded to them as well known, it may be answered, with equal probability that the natural passions of a poet would have disposed him to separate his own works from those of an inferior hand. And, indeed if an author's own testimony is to be overthrown by

speculative criticism, no man can be any longer secure of literary reputation

Of these three plays I think the second the best. The truth is, that they have not sufficient variety of action, for the incidents are too often of the same kind, yet many of the characters are well discriminated. King *Henry* and his queen, king *Edward*, the duke of *Gloucester*, and the Earl of *Warwick*, are very strongly and distinctly painted.

The old copies of the two latter parts of *Henry VI* and of *Henry V* are so apparently imperfect and mutilated, that there is no reason for supposing them the first draughts of *Shakespeare*. I am inclined to believe them copies taken by some auditor who wrote down, during the representation, what the time would permit, then perhaps filled up some of his omissions at a second or third hearing, and when he had by this method formed something like a play, sent it to the printer.

#### KING RICHARD III.

This is one of the most celebrated of our author's performances, yet I know not whether it has not happened to him as to others, to be praised most, when praise is not most deserved. That this play has scenes noble in themselves, and very well contrived to strike in the exhibition, cannot be denied. But some parts are trifling, others shocking, and some improbable.

I have nothing to add to the observations of the learned criticks, but that some traces of this antiquated exhibition are still retained in the rustick puppet-

puppet plays, in which I have seen the Devil very lustily belaboured by Punch, whom I hold to be the legitimate successor of the old Vice.

### KING HENRY VIII

The play of *Henry the Eighth* is one of those which still keeps possession of the stage by the splendour of its pageantry. The coronation about forty years ago drew the people together in multitudes for a great part of the winter. Yet pomp is not the only merit of this play. The meek sorrows and virtuous distress of *Katharine* have furnished some scenes which may be justly numbered among the greatest efforts of tragedy. But the genius of *Shakespeare* comes in and goes out with *Katharine*. Every other part may be easily conceived, and easily written.

The historical dramas are now concluded, of which the two parts of *Henry the Fourth* and *Henry the Fifth*, are among the happiest of our author's compositions, and *King John*, *Richard the Third*, and *Henry the Eighth* deservedly stand in the second class. Those whose curiosity would refer the historical scenes to their original, may consult *Holinshed*, and sometimes *Hall* from *Holinshed*. *Shakespeare* has often inserted whole speeches with no more alteration than was necessary to the numbers of his verse. To transcribe them into the margin was unnecessary, because the original is easily examined and they are seldom less perspicuous in the poet than in the historian.

To play histories, or to exhibit a succession of events by action and dialogue, was a common

entertainment among our rude ancestors upon great festivities. The parish clerks once performed at *Clerkenwell* a play which lasted three days, containing *The History of the World*.

#### C O R I O L A N U S.

The tragedy of *Coriolanus* is one of the most amusing of our author's performances. The old man's merriment in *Menenius*, the lofty lady's dignity in *Volumnia*, the bridal modesty in *Virgilia*, the patrician and military haughtiness in *Coriolanus*, the plebeian malignity, and tribunitian insolence in *Brutus* and *Sicinius*, make a very pleasing and interesting variety and the various revolutions of the hero's fortune fill the mind with anxious curiosity. There is, perhaps, too much bustle in the first act, and too little in the last.

#### J U L I U S C Æ S A R

Of this tragedy many particular passages deserve regard, and the contention and reconciliation of *Brutus* and *Cassius* is universally celebrated, but I have never been strongly agitated in perusing it, and think it somewhat cold and unaffecting, compared with some other of *Shakespeare's* plays, his adherence to the real story, and to *Roman* manners, seems to have impeded the natural vigour of his genius.

#### A N T O N Y A N D C L E O P A T R A

This play keeps curiosity always busy, and the passions always interested. The continual hurry of the action, the variety of incidents, and the quick  
succession

succession of one personage to another, call the mind forward without intermission from the first act to the last. But the power of delighting is derived principally from the frequent changes of the scene, for except the feminine arts, some of which are too low, which distinguish *Cleopatra* no character is very strongly discriminated. *Upton*, who did not easily miss what he desired to find, has discovered that the language of *Antony* is, with great skill and learning made pompous and superb, according to his real practice. But I think his diction not distinguishable from that of others. the most tunid speech in the play is that which *Cæsar* makes to *Octavia*.

The events, of which the principal are described according to history, are produced without any art of connexion or care of disposition.

#### TIMON OF ATHENS

The play of *Timon* is a domestick tragedy, and therefore strongly fastens on the attention of the reader. In the plan there is not much art, but the incidents are natural, and the characters various and exact. The catastrophe affords a very powerful warning against that ostentatious liberality, which scatters bounty, but confers no benefits, and buys flattery, but not friendship.

In this tragedy are many passages perplexed obscure and probably corrupt, which I have endeavoured to rectify, or explain, with due diligence but having only one copy, cannot promise myself that my endeavours shall be much applauded.

## TITUS ANDRONICUS

All the editors and critics agree with Mr *Theobald* in supposing this play spurious. I see no reason for differing from them, for the colour of the style is wholly different from that of the other plays, and there is an attempt at regular versification, and artificial closes, not always inelegant, yet seldom pleasing. The barbarity of the spectacles, and the general massacre, which are here exhibited, can scarcely be conceived tolerable to any audience, yet we are told by *Jonson*, that they were not only born, but praised. That *Shakespeare* wrote any part, though *Theobald* declares it incontestable, I see no reason for believing.

The testimony produced at the beginning of this play, by which it is ascribed to *Shakespeare*, is by no means equal to the argument against its authenticity, arising from the total difference of conduct, language, and sentiments, by which it stands apart from all the rest. *Meres* had probably no other evidence, than that of a title-page, which, though in our time it be sufficient, was then of no great authority, for all the plays which were rejected by the first collectors of *Shakespeare's* works, and admitted in later editions, and again rejected by the critical editors, had *Shakespeare's* name on the title, as we must suppose, by the fraudulence of the printers, who, while there were yet no gazettes, nor advertisements, nor any means of circulating literary intelligence, could usurp at pleasure any celebrated name. Nor had *Shakespeare* any interest in detecting

ing

ing the imposture, as none of his fame or profit was produced by the press

The chronology of this play does not prove it not to be *Shakespeare's*. If it had been written twenty-five years in 1614, it might have been written when *Shakespeare* was twenty-five years old. When he left *Warwickshire* I know not, but at the age of twenty-five it was rather too late to fly for decaying sterling.

*Ravenscroft*, who in the reign of *Charles II* revised this play, and restored it to the stage, tells us, in his preface, from a theatrical tradition, I suppose, which in his time might be of sufficient authority, that this play was touched in different parts by *Shakespeare*, but written by some other poet. I do not find *Shakespeare's* touches very discernible.

#### IRIUS AND CRESSIDA

This play is more correctly written than most of *Shakespeare's* compositions, but it is not one of those in which either the extent of his views or elevation of his fancy is fully displayed. As the story abounded with materials he has exerted little invention, but he has diversified his characters with great variety, and preserved them with great exactness. His vicious characters sometimes disgust, but cannot corrupt, for both *Cressida* and *Pandarus* are detested and contemned. The comick characters seem to have been the favourites of the writer: they are of the superficial kind, and exhibit more of manners than nature, but they are copiously filled, and powerfully impressed.

*Shakespeare* has in his story followed for the greater part the old book of *Caxton*, which was  
then

then very popular, but the character of *Thersites*, of which it makes no mention, is a proof that this play was written after *Chapman* had published his version of *Homer*

## CYMBELINE.

This play has many just sentiments, some natural dialogues, and some pleasing scenes, but they are obtained at the expense of much incongruity. To remark the folly of the fiction, the absurdity of the conduct, the confusion of the names, and manners of different times, and the impossibility of the events in any system of life, were to waste criticism upon unresisting imbecility, upon faults too evident for detection, and too gross for aggravation.

## KING LEAR

The tragedy of *Lear* is deservedly celebrated among the dramas of *Shakespeare*. There is perhaps no play which keeps the attention so strongly fixed, which so much agitates our passions, and interests our curiosity. The artful involutions of distinct interests, the striking opposition of contrary characters, the sudden changes of fortune, and the quick succession of events, fill the mind with a perpetual tumult of indignation, pity, and hope. There is no scene which does not contribute to the aggravation of the distress or conduct of the action, and scarce a line which does not conduce to the progress of the scene. So powerful is the current of the poet's imagination, that the mind, which once ventures within it, is hurried irresistibly along.

On

On the seeming improbability of *Lear's* conduct, it may be observed, that he is represented according to histories at that time vulgarly received as true. And, perhaps if we turn our thoughts upon the barbarity and ignorance of the age to which this story is referred, it will appear not so unlikely as while we estimate *Lear's* manners by our own. Such preference of one daughter to another, or resignation of dominion on such conditions, would be yet credible, if told of a petty prince of *Guinea* or *Madagascar*. *Shakespeare*, indeed, by the mention of his earls and dukes has given us the idea of times more civilized and of life regulated by softer manners, and the truth is, that though he so nicely discriminates and so minutely describes the characters of men he commonly neglects and confounds the characters of ages, by mingling customs ancient and modern *English* and foreign.

My learned friend Mr *Warton*, who has in the *Adventurer* very minutely criticised this play, remarks, that the instances of cruelty are too savage and shocking, and that the intervention of *Edmund* destroys the simplicity of the story. These objections may, I think, be answered by repeating, that the cruelty of the daughters is an historical fact to which the poet has added little having only drawn it into a series by dialogue and action. But I am not able to apologize with equal plausibility for the extrusion of *Gloster's* eyes, which seems an act too horrid to be endured in dramatick exhibition, and such as must always compel the mind to relieve its distress by incredulity. Yet let it be remembered that

that our author well knew what would please the audience for which he wrote

The injury done by *Edmund* to the simplicity of the action is abundantly recompensed by the addition of variety, by the art with which he is made to co-operate with the chief design, and the opportunity which he gives the poet of combining perfidy with perfidy, and connecting the wicked son with the wicked daughters to impress this important moral, that villany is never at a stop, that crimes lead to crimes, and at last terminate in ruin

But though this moral be incidentally enforced, *Shakespeare* has sacrificed the virtue of *Cordelia* to perish in a just cause, contrary to the natural ideas of justice, to the hope of the reader, and, what is yet more strange, to the faith of chronicles. Yet this conduct is justified by *The Spectator*, who blames *Tate* for giving *Cordelia* success and happiness in his alteration, and declares, that in his opinion *the tragedy has lost half its beauty*. *Dennis* has remarked, whether justly or not, that, to secure the favourable reception of *Cato*, *the town was poisoned with much false and abominable criticism*, and that endeavours had been used to discredit and decry poetical justice. A play in which the wicked prosper, and the virtuous miscarry, may doubtless be good, because it is a just representation of the common events of human life: but since all reasonable beings naturally love justice, I cannot easily be persuaded, that the observation of justice makes a play worse, or, that if other excellencies are equal, the audience will not always rise better pleased from the final triumph of persecuted virtue

In the present case the publick has decided *Corde-  
lia*, from the time of *Tate*, has always retired with  
victory and felicity. And if my sensations could add  
any thing to the general suffrage, I might relate I  
was many years ago so shocked by *Corde-  
lia's* death  
that I know not whether I ever endured to read  
again the last scenes of the play till I undertook to  
revise them as an editor.

There is another controversy among the critics  
concerning this play. It is disputed whether the  
predominant image in *Lear's* disordered mind be  
the loss of his kingdom or the cruelty of his daugh-  
ters. Mr *Murphy*, a very judicious critic, has  
evinced by induction of particular passages, that the  
cruelty of his daughters is the primary source of his  
distress and that the loss of royalty affects him only  
as a secondary and subordinate evil. He observes,  
with great justness, that *Lear* would move our com-  
passion but little did we not rather consider the  
injured father than the degraded king.

The story of this play except the episode of  
*Edmund* which is derived, I think from *Sidney*, is  
taken originally from *Geoffrey of Monmouth* whom  
*Holinshed* generally copied, but perhaps immediately  
from an old historical ballad. My reason for be-  
lieving that the play was posterior to the ballad,  
rather than the ballad to the play, is that the ballad  
has nothing of *Shakespeare's* nocturnal tempest,  
which is too striking to have been omitted and that  
it follows the chronicle it has the rudiments of the  
play but none of its amplifications it first hinted  
*Lear's* madness but did not vary it in circum-  
stances. The writer of the ballad added something

to the history, which is a proof that he would have added more, if more had occurred to his mind, and more must have occurred if he had seen *Shakespeare*.

## ROMEO AND JULIET

This play is one of the most pleasing of our author's performances. The scenes are busy and various, the incidents numerous and important, the catastrophe irresistibly affecting, and the process of the action carried on with such probability, at least with such congruity to popular opinions, as tragedy requires.

Here is one of the few attempts of *Shakespeare* to exhibit the conversation of gentlemen, to represent the airy sprightliness of juvenile elegance. Mr *Dryden* mentions a tradition, which might easily reach his time, of a declaration made by *Shakespeare*, that *he was obliged to kill Mercutio in the third act, lest he should have been killed by him*. Yet he thinks him *no such formidable person but that he might have lived through the play, and died in his bed*, without danger to a poet. *Dryden* well knew, had he been in quest of truth, that, in a pointed sentence, more regard is commonly had to the words than the thought, and that it is very seldom to be rigorously understood. *Mercutio's* wit, gayety, and courage, will always procure him friends that wish him a longer life, but his death is not precipitated, he has lived out the time allotted him in the construction of the play, nor do I doubt the ability of *Shakespeare* to have continued his existence, though some of his sallies are perhaps out of the reach of *Dryden*,  
I
whose

whose genius was not very fertile of merriment, nor ductile to humour, but acute, argumentative, comprehensive and sublime

The *Nurse* is one of the characters in which the author delighted. He has, with great subtilty of distinction, drawn her at once loquacious and secret, obsequious and insolent, trusty and dishonest

His comick scenes are happily wrought, but his pathetick strains are always polluted with some unexpected depravations. His persons, however distressed, *have a conceit left them in their misery, a miserable conceit*

## H A M L E T

If the dramas of *Shakespeare* were to be characterized each by the particular excellence which distinguishes it from the rest, we must allow to the tragedy of *Hamlet* the praise of variety. The incidents are so numerous, that the argument of the play would make a long tale. The scenes are interchangerably diversified with merriment and solemnity, with merriment, that includes judicious and instructive observations and solemnity, not strained by poetical violence above the natural sentiments of man. New characters appear from time to time in continual succession, exhibiting various forms of life and particular modes of conversation. The pretended madness of *Hamlet* causes much mirth, the mournful distraction of *Ophelia* fills the heart with tenderness, and every personage produces the effect intended, from the apparition that in the first act chills the blood with

horror,

honour, to the top in the last, that exposes affectation to just contempt

The conduct is perhaps not wholly secure against objections. The action is indeed for the most part in continual progression, but there are some scenes which neither forward nor retard it. Of the feigned madness of *Hamlet* there appears no adequate cause, for he does nothing which he might not have done with the reputation of sanity. He plays the madman most, when he treats *Ophelia* with so much rudeness, which seems to be useless and wanton cruelty.

*Hamlet* is, through the whole piece, rather an instrument than an agent. After he has, by the stratagem of the play, convicted the king, he makes no attempt to punish him, and his death is at last effected by an incident which *Hamlet* had no part in producing.

The catastrophe is not very happily produced; the exchange of weapons is rather an expedient of necessity, than a stroke of art. A scheme might easily have been formed to kill *Hamlet* with the dagger, and *Laertes* with the bowl.

The poet is accused of having shown little regard to poetical justice, and may be charged with equal neglect of poetical probability. The apparition left the regions of the dead to little purpose, the revenge which he demands is not obtained, but by the death of him that was required to take it, and the gratification, which would arise from the destruction of an usurper and a murderer, is abated by the untimely death of *Ophelia*, the young, the beautiful, the harmless, and the pious.

## OTHELLO

The beauties of this play impress themselves so strongly upon the attention of the reader that they can draw no aid from critical illustration. The fiery openness of *Othello*, magnanimous, artless, and credulous, boundless in his confidence ardent in his affection, inflexible in his resolution, and obdurate in his revenge, the cool malignity of *Iago* silent in his resentment, subtle in his designs, and studious at once of his interest and his vengeance, the soft simplicity of *Desdemona*, confident of merit, and conscious of innocence her artless perseverance in her suit, and her slowness to suspect that she can be suspected, are such proofs of *Shakespeare's* skill in human nature, as, I suppose, it is vain to seek in any modern writer. The gradual progress which *Iago* makes in the *Moor's* conviction and the circumstances which he employs to inflame him, are so artfully natural, that, though it will perhaps not be said of him as he says of himself, that he is *a man not easily jealous*, yet we cannot but pity him when at last we find him *perplexed in the extreme*.

There is always danger, lest wickedness, conjoined with abilities, should steal upon esteem, though it misses of approbation, but the character of *Iago* is so conducted, that he is from the first scene to the last hated and despised.

Even the inferior characters of this play would be very conspicuous in any other piece not only for their justness, but their strength. *Cassio* is brave, benevolent and honest, ruined only by his want of

honour, to the top in the last, that exposes affectation to just contempt

The conduct is perhaps not wholly secure against objections. The action is indeed for the most part in continual progression, but there are some scenes which neither forward nor retard it. Of the feigned madness of *Hamlet* there appears no adequate cause, for he does nothing which he might not have done with the reputation of sanity. He plays the madman most, when he treats *Ophelia* with so much rudeness, which seems to be useless and wanton cruelty.

*Hamlet* is, through the whole piece, rather an instrument than an agent. After he has, by the stratagem of the play, convicted the king, he makes no attempt to punish him, and his death is at last effected by an incident which *Hamlet* had no part in producing.

The catastrophe is not very happily produced; the exchange of weapons is rather an expedient of necessity, than a stroke of art. A scheme might easily have been formed to kill *Hamlet* with the dagger, and *Laertes* with the bowl.

The poet is accused of having shown little regard to poetical justice, and may be charged with equal neglect of poetical probability. The apparition left the regions of the dead to little purpose, the revenge which he demands is not obtained, but by the death of him that was required to take it, and the gratification, which would arise from the destruction of an usurper and a murderer, is abated by the untimely death of *Ophelia*, the young, the beautiful, the harmless, and the pious.

## OTHELLO

The beauties of this play impress themselves so strongly upon the attention of the reader that they can draw no aid from critical illustration. The fiery openness of *Othello* magnanimous, artless, and credulous, boundless in his confidence, ardent in his affection, inflexible in his resolution and obdurate in his revenge, the cool malignity of *Iago*, silent in his resentment, subtle in his designs and studious at once of his interest and his vengeance, the soft simplicity of *Desdemona*, confident of merit, and conscious of innocence, her artless perseverance in her suit and her slowness to suspect that she can be suspected, are such proofs of *Shakespeare's* skill in human nature as, I suppose, it is vain to seek in any modern writer. The gradual progress which *Iago* makes in the *Moors* conviction, and the circumstances which he employs to inflame him, are so artfully natural, that though it will perhaps not be said of him as he says of himself, that he is *a man not easily jealous*, yet we cannot but pity him, when at last we find him *perplexed in the extreme*.

There is always danger, lest wickedness conjoined with abilities should steal upon esteem, though it misses of approbation. but the character of *Iago* is so conducted that he is from the first scene to the last hated and despised.

Even the inferior characters of this play would be very conspicuous in any other piece not only for their justness, but their strength. *Cassio* is brave, benevolent and honest, ruined only by his want of

stubbornness to resist an insidious invitation *Roderigo's* suspicious credulity, and impatient submission to the cheats which he sees practised upon him, and which by persuasion he suffers to be repeated, exhibit a strong picture of a weak mind betrayed by unlawful desires to a false friend, and the virtue of *Æmilia* is such as we often find worn loosely, but not cast off, easy to commit small crimes, but quickened and alarmed at atrocious villainies.

The scenes from the beginning to the end are busy, varied by happy interchanges, and regularly promoting the progression of the story, and the narrative in the end, though it tells but what is known already, yet is necessary to produce the death of *Othello*.

Had the scene opened in *Cyprus*, and the preceding incidents been occasionally related, there had been little wanting to a drama of the most exact and scrupulous regularity.

AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE

HARLEIAN LIBRARY

[First published in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1742, and in the following year prefixed to Osbornes "*Catalogus Bibliothecæ Harleianæ*"]

**T**O solicit a subscription for a Catalogue of Books exposed to sale, is an attempt for which some apology cannot but be necessary, for few would willingly contribute to the expense of volumes by which neither instruction nor entertainment could be afforded, from which only the bookseller could expect advantage and of which the only use must cease, at the dispersion of the library

*Nor could the reasonableness of an universal rejection of our proposal be denied, if this catalogue were to be compiled with no other view, than that of promoting the sale of the books which it enumerates, and drawn up with that inaccuracy and confusion which may be found in those that are duly published*

But our design like our proposal, is uncommon, and to be prosecuted at a very uncommon expense it being intended, that the books shall be distributed into their distinct classes and every class ranged with some regard to the age of the writers, that every

book shall be accurately described, that the peculiarities of editions shall be remarked, and observations from the authors of literary history occasionally interspersed, that, by this catalogue, we may inform posterity of the excellence and value of this great collection, and promote the knowledge of scarce books, and elegant editions. For this purpose men of letters are engaged, who cannot even be supplied with amanuenses, but at an expense above that of a common catalogue.

To show that this collection deserves a particular degree of regard from the learned and the studious, that it excels any library that was ever yet offered to publick sale in the value as well as number of the volumes which it contains; and that therefore this catalogue will not be of less use to men of letters, than those of the *Thuanian*, *Heinsian*, or *Barberinian* libraries, it may not be improper to exhibit a general account of the different classes, as they are naturally divided by the several sciences.

By this method we can indeed exhibit only a general idea, at once magnificent and confused, an idea of the writings of many nations, collected from distant parts of the world, discovered sometimes by chance, and sometimes by curiosity, amidst the rubbish of forsaken monasteries, and the repositories of ancient families, and brought hither from every part, as to the universal receptacle of learning.

It will be no unpleasing effect of this account, if those that shall happen to peruse it, should be inclined by it to reflect on the character of the late proprietors, and to pay some tribute of veneration

to their ardour for literature, to that generous and exalted curiosity which they gratified with incessant searches and immense expense, and to which they dedicated that time, and that superfluity of fortune, which many others of their rank employ in the pursuit of contemptible amusements, or the gratification of guilty passions. And, surely, every man, who considers learning as ornamental and advantageous to the community, must allow them the honour of publick benefactors who have introduced amongst us authors not hitherto well known, and added to the literary treasures of their native country.

That our catalogue will excite any other man to emulate the collectors of this library, to prefer books and manuscripts to equipage and luxury, and to forsake noise and diversion for the conversation of the learned, and the satisfaction of extensive knowledge, we are very far from presuming to hope but shall make no scruple to assert, that, if any man should happen to be seized with such laudable ambition, he may find in this catalogue hints and informations which are not easily to be met with. He will discover, that the boasted *Bodleian* library is very far from a perfect model and that even the learned *Fabricius* cannot completely instruct him in the early editions of the classick writers.

But the collectors of libraries cannot be numerous, and, therefore, catalogues cannot very properly be recommended to the publick, if they had not a more general and frequent use, an use which every student has experienced, or neglected to his loss. By the means of catalogues only can it be known what has been written on every part of learning, and the

hazard avoided of encountering difficulties which have already been cleared, discussing questions which have already been decided, and digging in mines of literature which former ages have exhausted

How often this has been the fate of students, every man of letters can declare, and, perhaps, there are very few who have not sometimes valued as new discoveries, made by themselves, those observations, which have long since been published, and of which the world therefore will refuse them the praise, nor can the refusal be censured as any enormous violation of justice, for, why should they not forfeit by their ignorance, what they might claim by their sagacity?

To illustrate this remark, by the mention of obscure names, would not much confirm it, and to vilify for this purpose the memory of men truly great, would be to deny them the reverence which they may justly claim from those whom their writings have instructed. May the shade at least, of one great *English* critick rest without disturbance, and may no man presume to insult his memory, who wants his learning, his reason, or his wit

From the vexatious disappointment of meeting reproach, where praise is expected, every man will certainly desire to be secured, and therefore that book will have some claim to his regard, from which he may receive informations of the labours of his predecessors, such as a catalogue of the *Harleian* Library will copiously afford him

Not is the use of catalogues of less importance to those whom curiosity has engaged in the study of literary history, and who think the intellectual revolutions of the world more worthy of their attention,  
than

than the ravages of tyrants, the desolation of kingdoms, the rout of armies, and the fall of empires. Those who are pleased with observing the first birth of new opinions, their struggles against opposition, their silent progress under persecution their general reception, and their gradual decline, or sudden extinction, those that amuse themselves with remarking the different periods of human knowledge and observe how darkness and light succeed each other, by what accident the most gloomy nights of ignorance have given way in the dawn of science, and how learning has languished and decayed, for want of patronage and regard or been overborn by the prevalence of fashionable ignorance, or lost amidst the tumults of invasion and the storms of violence. All those who desire any knowledge of the literary transactions of past ages, may find in catalogues, like this at least, such an account as is given by annalists, and chronologers of civil history.

How the knowledge of the sacred writings has been diffused, will be observed from the catalogue of the various editions of the bible, from the first impression by *Fust*, in 1462, to the present time in which will be contained the polyglot editions of *Spain France*, and *England*, those of the original *Hebrew* the *Greek Septuagint* and the *Latin Vulgate*, with the versions which are now used in the remotest parts of *Europe* in the country of the *Grisons*, in *Lithuania*, *Bohemia*, *Finland* and *Iceland*.

With regard to the attempts of the same kind made in our own country, there are few whose expectations will not be exceeded by the number of *English* bibles, of which not one is forgotten, whether valuable for

the pomp and beauty of the impression, or for the notes with which the text is accompanied, or for any controversy or persecution that it produced, or for the peculiarity of any single passage. With the same care have the various editions of the book of common-prayer been selected, from which all the alterations which have been made in it may be easily remarked.

Amongst a great number of *Roman* missals and breviaries, remarkable for the beauty of their cuts and illuminations, will be found the *Mosorabic* missal and breviary, that raised such commotions in the kingdom of *Spain*.

The controversial treatises written in *England*, about the time of the Reformation, have been diligently collected, with a multitude of remarkable tracts, single sermons, and small treatises; which, however worthy to be preserved, are, perhaps, to be found in no other place.

The regard which was always paid, by the collectors of this library, to that remarkable period of time in which the art of printing was invented, determined them to accumulate the ancient impressions of the fathers of the church, to which the later editions are added, lest antiquity should have seemed more worthy of esteem than accuracy.

History has been considered with the regard due to that study by which the manners are most easily formed, and from which the most efficacious instruction is received, nor will the most extensive curiosity fail of gratification in this library, from which no writers have been excluded, that relate either to the religious or civil affairs of any nation.

Not

Not only those authors of ecclesiastical history have been procured that treat of the state of religion in general, or deliver accounts of sects or nations, but those likewise who have confined themselves to particular orders of men in every church who have related the original, and the rules of every society, or recounted the lives of its founder and its members, those who have deduced in every country the succession of bishops and those who have employed their abilities in celebrating the piety of particular saints, or martyrs or monks, or nuns

The civil history of all nations has been amassed together, nor is it easy to determine which has been thought most worthy of curiosity

Of *France*, not only the general histories and ancient chronicles the accounts of celebrated reigns, and narratives of remarkable events but even the memorials of single families the lives of private men, the antiquities of particular cities churches, and monasteries, the topography of provinces, and the accounts of laws customs, and prescriptions, are here to be found

The several states of *Italy* have in this treasury, their particular historians, whose accounts are perhaps generally more exact, by being less extensive, and more interesting by being more particular

Nor has less regard been paid to the different nations of the *Germanic* empire of which neither the *Bohemians* nor *Hungarians* nor *Austrians* nor *Bavarians* have been neglected nor have their antiquities however generally disregarded, been less studiously searched, than their present state

The

The northern nations have supplied this collection, not only with history, but poetry, with *Gothic* antiquities, and *Runic* inscriptions, which at least have this claim to veneration, above the remains of the *Roman* magnificence, that they are the works of those heroes by whom the *Roman* empire was destroyed, and which may plead, at least in this nation, that they ought not to be neglected by those that owe to the men whose memories they preserve, their constitution, their properties, and their liberties

The curiosity of these collectors extends equally to all parts of the world, nor did they forget to add to the northern the southern writers, or to adorn their collection with chronicles of *Spain*, and the conquest of *Mexico*

Even of those nations with which we have less intercourse, whose customs are less accurately known, and whose history is less distinctly recounted, there are in this library repositied such accounts as the *Europeans* have been hitherto able to obtain, nor are the *Mogul*, the *Tartar*, the *Turk*, and the *Saracen*, without their historians

That persons so inquisitive with regard to the transactions of other nations, should inquire yet more ardently after the history of their own, may be naturally expected, and, indeed, this part of the library is no common instance of diligence and accuracy. Here are to be found, with the ancient chronicles, and larger histories of *Britain*, the narratives of single reigns, and the accounts of remarkable revolutions, the topographical histories of counties, the pedigrees of families, the antiquities of churches and cities, the

the proceedings of parliaments, the records of monasteries and the lives of particular men, whether eminent in the church or the state, or remarkable in private life whether exemplary for their virtues, or detestable for their crimes, whether persecuted for religion or executed for rebellion

That memorable period of the *English* history, which begins with the reign of king *Charles the First* and ends with the Restoration will almost furnish a library alone, such is the number of volumes, pamphlets and papers, which were published by either party, and such is the care with which they have been preserved

Nor is history without the necessary preparatives and attendants, geography and chronology of geography, the best writers and delineators have been procured and pomp and accuracy have both been regarded, the student of chronology may here find likewise those authors who searched the records of time, and fixed the periods of history

With the historians and geographers may be ranked the writers of voyages and travels, which may be read here in the *Latin, English, Dutch, German, French, Italian, and Spanish* languages

The laws of different countries, as they are in themselves equally worthy of curiosity with their history have in this collection been justly regarded, and the rules by which the various communities of the world are governed, may be here examined and compared Here are the ancient editions of the papal decretals, and the commentators on the civil law, the edicts of *Spain*, and the statutes of *Venice*

But

But with particular industry have the various writers on the laws of our own country been collected, from the most ancient to the present time, from the bodies of the statutes to the minutest treatise; not only the reports, precedents, and readings of our own courts, but even the laws of our *West-Indian* colonies, will be exhibited in our catalogue

But neither history nor law have been so far able to engross this library, as to exclude physic, philosophy, or criticism. Those have been thought, with justice, worthy of a place, who have examined the different species of animals, delineated their forms, or described their properties and instincts, or who have penetrated the bowels of the earth, treated on its different strata, and analysed its metals, or who have amused themselves with less laborious speculations, and planted trees, or cultivated flowers.

Those that have exalted their thoughts above the minuter parts of the creation, who have observed the motions of the heavenly bodies, and attempted systems of the universe, have not been denied the honour which they deserved by so great an attempt, whatever has been their success. Nor have those mathematicians been rejected, who have applied their science to the common purposes of life, or those that have deviated into the kindred arts, of tactics, architecture, and fortification

Even arts of far less importance have found their authors, nor have these authors been despised by the boundless curiosity of the proprietors of the *Harleian* Library. The writers on horsemanship and fencing are more numerous, and more bulky, than could be

expected by those who reflect how seldom those excel in either, whom their education has qualified to compose books

The admirer of *Greek* and *Roman* literature will meet, in this collection, with editions little known to the most inquisitive criticks and which have escaped the observation of those whose great employment has been the collation of copies, nor will he find only the most ancient editions of *Faustus*, *Jenson*, *Spina*, *Sueynheim*, and *Pannartz*, but the most accurate likewise and beautiful of *Colinaus*, the *Junto*, *Plantin*, *Aldus*, the *Stephens*, and *Elzevir* with the commentaries and observations of the most learned editors

Nor are they accompanied only with the illustrations of those who have confined their attempts to particular writers but of those likewise who have treated on any part of the *Greek* or *Roman* antiquities, then laws their customs, then dress, their buildings, their wars their revenues, or their rites and ceremonies of their worship, and those that have endeavoured to explain any of their authors from their statues or their coins

Next to the ancients, those writers deserve to be mentioned, who at the restoration of literature imitated their language and their style with so great success, or who laboured with so much industry to make them understood such were *Plilephus* and *Politian*, *Scaliger* and *Buchanan*, and the poets of the age of *Leo the Tenth*, these are likewise to be found in this library together with the *Deliciæ* or collections of all nations

Painting is so nearly allied to poetry, that it can not be wondered that those who have so much  
esteemed



The patrons of literature will forgive the purchaser of this library if he presumes to assert some claim to their protection and encouragement, as he may have been instrumental in continuing to this nation the advantage of it. The sale of *Vossius's* collection into a foreign country, is to this day, regretted by men of letters, and if this effort for the prevention of another loss of the same kind should be disadvantageous to him, no man will hereafter willingly risk his fortune in the cause of learning.

AN  
 ESSAY  
 ON THE  
 ORIGIN AND IMPORTANCE  
 OF  
 SMALL TRACTS AND FUGITIVE PIECES.

Written for the INTRODUCTION to the  
 HARLEIAN MISCELLANY,

Published in 1744, &c in 8 vols. 4to.

ALTHOUGH the scheme of the following Miscellany is so obvious, that the title alone is sufficient to explain it, and though several collections have been formerly attempted upon plans, as to the method, very little, but, as to the capacity and execution, very different from ours, we, being possessed of the greatest variety for such a work, hope for a more general reception than those confined schemes had the fortune to meet with, and therefore, think it not wholly unnecessary to explain our intentions, to display the treasures of materials out of which this Miscellany is to be compiled, and to exhibit a general idea of the pieces which we intend to insert in it

There is, perhaps, no nation in which it is so necessary, as in our own, to assemble, from time to

to time, the small tracts and fugitive pieces, which are occasionally published, for, besides the general subjects of enquiry, which are cultivated by us, in common with every other learned nation, our constitution in church and state naturally gives birth to a multitude of performances, which would either not have been written, or could not have been made publick in any other place

The form of our government, which gives every man that has leisure, or curiosity, or vanity, the right of enquiring into the propriety of publick measures, and by consequence obliges those who are intrusted with the administration of national affairs to give an account of their conduct to almost every man who demands it, may be reasonably imagined to have occasioned innumerable pamphlets, which would never have appeared under arbitrary governments where every man lulls himself in indolence under calamities, of which he cannot promote the redress, or thinks it prudent to conceal the uneasiness, of which he cannot complain without danger

The multiplicity of religious sects tolerated among us of which every one has found opponents and vindicators is another source of unexhaustible publication, almost peculiar to ourselves, for controversies cannot be long continued, nor frequently revived, where an inquisitor has a right to shut up the disputants in dungeons, or where silence can be imposed on either party, by the refusal of a license

Not that it should be inferred from hence, that political or religious controversies are the only products of the liberty of the *British* press, the mind once let

loose to enquiry, and suffered to operate without restraint, necessarily deviates into peculiar opinions, and wanders in new tracts, where she is indeed sometimes lost in a labyrinth, from which though she cannot return, and scarce knows how to proceed, yet, sometimes, makes useful discoveries, or finds out nearer paths to knowledge

The boundless liberty with which every man may write his own thoughts, and the opportunity of conveying new sentiments to the publick, without danger of suffering either ridicule or censure, which every man may enjoy, whose vanity does not incite him too hastily to own his performances, naturally invites those who employ themselves in speculation, to try how their notions will be received by a nation, which exempts caution from fear, and modesty from shame, and it is no wonder, that where reputation may be gained, but needs not be lost, multitudes are willing to try their fortune, and thrust their opinions into the light, sometimes with unsuccessful haste, and sometimes with happy temerity.

It is observed, that, among the natives of *England*, is to be found a greater variety of humour, than in any other country, and, doubtless, where every man has a full liberty to propagate his conceptions, variety of humour must produce variety of writers, and, where the number of authors is so great, there cannot but be some worthy of distinction

All these and many other causes, too tedious to be enumerated, have contributed to make pamphlets  
and

and small tracts a very important part of an *English* library, nor are there any pieces upon which those who aspire to the reputation of judicious collectors of books, bestow more attention, or greater expense, because many advantages may be expected from the perusal of these small productions, which are scarcely to be found in that of larger works.

If we regard history, it is well known, that most political treatises have for a long time appeared in this form, and that the first relations of transactions, while they are yet the subject of conversation, divide the opinions and employ the conjectures of mankind, are delivered by these petty writers, who have opportunities of collecting the different sentiments of disputants, of enquiring the truth from living witnesses, and of copying their representations from the life, and therefore they preserve a multitude of particular incidents, which are forgotten in a short time, or omitted in formal relations, and which are yet to be considered as sparks of truth, which, when united, may afford light in some of the darkest scenes of state, as we doubt not, will be sufficiently proved in the course of this Miscellany, and which it is therefore, the interest of the publick to preserve unextinguished.

The same observation may be extended to subjects of yet more importance. In controversies that relate to the truths of religion, the first essays of reformation are generally timorous, and those, who have opinions to offer, which they expect to be opposed, produce their sentiments by degrees, and, for the most part, in small tracts, by degrees, that they may not shock their readers with too many novelties at once, and in

small tracts, that they may be easily dispersed, or privately printed: almost every controversy, therefore, has been, for a time, carried on in pamphlets, nor has swelled into larger volumes, till the first ardour of the disputants has subsided, and they have recollected their notions with coolness enough to digest them into order, consolidate them into systems, and fortify them with authorities

From pamphlets, consequently, are to be learned, the progress of every debate, the various state to which the questions have been changed, the artifices and fallacies which have been used, and the subterfuges by which reason has been eluded. in such writings may be seen how the mind has been opened by degrees, how one truth has led to another, how error has been disentangled, and hints improved to demonstration, which pleasure, and many others, are lost by him that only reads the larger writers, by whom these scattered sentiments are collected, who will see none of the changes of fortune which every opinion has passed through, will have no opportunity of remarking the transient advantages which error may sometimes obtain, by the artifices of its patron, or the successful rallies by which truth regains the day, after a repulse, but will be to him, who traces the dispute through into particular gradations, as he that hears of a victory, to him that sees the battle.

Since the advantages of preserving these small tracts are so numerous, our attempt to unite them in volumes cannot be thought either useless or unseasonable, for there is no other method of securing them from accidents, and they have already been

been so long neglected, that this design cannot be delayed without hazarding the loss of many pieces, which deserve to be transmitted to another age

The practice of publishing pamphlets on the most important subjects, has now prevailed more than two centuries among us, and therefore it cannot be doubted, but that, as no large collections have been yet made, many curious tracts must have perished but it is too late to lament that loss, nor ought we to reflect upon it, with any other view, than that of quickening our endeavours for the preservation of those that yet remain of which we have now a greater number, than was perhaps ever amassed by any one person

The first appearance of pamphlets among us, is generally thought to be at the new opposition raised against the errors and corruptions of the church of *Rome* Those who were first convinced of the reasonableness of the new learning, as it was then called, propagated their opinions in small pieces, which were cheaply printed, and, what was then of great importance, easily concealed These treatises were generally printed in foreign countries, and are not therefore, always very correct There was not then that opportunity of printing in private, for the number of printers were small and the presses were easily overlooked by the clergy, who spared no labour or vigilance for the suppression of heresy There is, however, reason to suspect, that some attempts were made to carry on the propagation of truth by a secret press, for one of the first treatises in favour of the Reformation, is said, at the end, to be printed at

*Greenwich, by the permission of the Lord of Hosts*

In the time of king *Edward the Sixth*, the presses were employed in favour of the reformed religion, and small tracts were dispersed over the nation, to reconcile them to the new forms of worship. In this reign, likewise, political pamphlets may be said to have been begun, by the address of the rebels of *Deronshe*, all which means of propagating the sentiments of the people so disturbed the court, that no sooner was queen *Mary* resolved to reduce her subjects to the *Romish* superstition, but she artfully by a charter,\* granted to certain freemen of *London*, in whose fidelity, no doubt, she confided, intirely prohibited *all* presses, but what should be licensed by them; which charter is that by which the corporation of Stationers in *London* is at this time incorporated

Under the reign of queen *Elizabeth*, when liberty again began to flourish, the practice of writing pamphlets became more general, presses were multiplied, and books were dispersed, and, I believe, it may properly be said, that the trade of writing began at that time, and that it has ever since gradually increased in the number, though, perhaps, not in the style of those that followed it

In this reign was erected the first *secret* press against the church as now established, of which I have found any certain account It was employed by the *Pur-*

\* Which begins thus, ‘ Know ye, that We, considering and  
‘ manifestly perceiving, that several seditious and heretical books  
‘ or tracts—against the faith and sound catholick doctrine of holy  
‘ mother, the church,’ &c.

*tans,*

tans, and conveyed from one part of the nation to another by them, as they found themselves in danger of discovery. From this press issued most of the pamphlets against *Hutgift* and his associates in the ecclesiastical government, and, when it was at last seized at *Manchester* it was employed upon a pamphlet called *More Work for a Cooper*.

In the perceable reign of king *James* those minds which might perhaps, with less disturbance of the world have been engrossed by war, were employed in controversy, and writings of all kinds were multiplied among us. The press, however, was not wholly engaged in polemical performances, for more innocent subjects were sometimes treated and it deserves to be remarked, because it is not generally known that the treatises of *Husbandry* and *Agriculture* which were published about that time are so numerous that it can scarcely be imagined by whom they were written, or to whom they were sold.

The next reign is too well known to have been a time of confusion and disturbance and disputes of every kind, and the writings which were produced, bear a natural proportion to the number of questions that were discussed at that time. Each party had its authors and its presses and no endeavours were omitted to gain proselytes to every opinion. I know not whether this may not properly be called, *The Age of Pamphlets*, for though they, perhaps may not arise to such multitudes as Mr *Raclinson* imagined they were, undoubtedly, more numerous than can be conceived by any who have not had an opportunity of examining them.

After the Restoration, the same differences, in religious opinions, are well known to have subsisted, and the same political struggles to have been frequently renewed, and, therefore a great number of pens were employed, on different occasions, till, at length, all other disputes were absorbed in the popish controversy

From the pamphlets which these different periods of time produced, it is proposed, that this Miscellany shall be compiled, for which it cannot be supposed that materials will be wanting, and, therefore, the only difficulty will be in what manner to dispose them

Those who have gone before us, in undertakings of this kind, have ranged the pamphlets, which chance threw into their hands, without any regard either to the subject on which they treated, or the time in which they were written, a practice in no wise to be imitated by us, who want for no materials, of which we shall choose those we think best for the particular circumstances of times and things, and most instructing and entertaining to the reader

Of the different methods which present themselves, upon the first view of the great heaps of pamphlets which the *Harleian* library exhibits, the two which merit most attention are, to distribute the treatises according to their subjects, or their dates, but neither of these ways can be conveniently followed. By ranging our collection in order of time, we must necessarily publish those pieces first, which least engage the curiosity of the bulk of mankind; and our design must fall to the ground, for want of encouragement, before it can be so far advanced as to  
obtain

obtain general regard by confining our elves for any long time to any single subject, we shall reduce our readers to one class, and, as we shall lose all the grace of variety, shall disgust all those who read chiefly to be diverted. There is likewise one objection of equal force against both these methods, that we shall preclude our elves from the advantage of any future discoveries, and we cannot hope to assemble at once all the pamphlets which have been written in any age, or on any subject.

It may be added, in vindication of our intended practice, that it is the same with that of *Photius*, whose collections are no less miscellaneous than ours, and who declares, that he leaves it to his reader, to reduce his extracts under their proper heads.

Most of the pieces which shall be offered in this collection to the publick, will be introduced by short prefaces in which will be given some account of the reasons for which they are inserted, notes will be sometimes adjoined, for the explanation of obscure passages, or obsolete expressions, and care will be taken to mingle use and pleasure through the whole collection. Notwithstanding every subject may not be relished by every reader, yet the buyer may be assured that each number will repay his generous subscription.

SOME ACCOUNT OF A BOOK,  
 CALLED  
 THE LIFE OF  
 BENVENUTO CELLINI.

THE original of this celebrated performance lay in manuscript above a century and a half. Though it was read with the greatest pleasure by the learned of *Italy*, no man was hardy enough, during so long a period, to introduce to the world a book in which the successors of *St Peter* were handled so roughly: a narrative, where artists and sovereign princes, cardinals and courtizans, ministers of state and mechanicks, are treated with equal impartiality.

At length, in the year 1730, an enterprising *Neapolitan*, encouraged by *Di Antonio Cocchi*, one of the politest scholars in *Europe*, published this so-much desired work in one volume quarto. The Doctor gave the editor an excellent preface, which, with very slight alteration, is judiciously preserved by the translator, *Di Nugent*. the book is, notwithstanding, very scarce in *Italy*. the clergy of *Naples* are very powerful, and though the editor  
 very

very prudently put *Colonia* instead of *Napoli* in the title page, the sale of *Cellini* was prohibited, the court of *Rome* has actually made it an article in their *Index Expurgatorius*, and prevented the importation of the book into any country where the power of the Holy See prevails

The life of *Benvenuto Cellini* is certainly a phenomenon in biography, whether we consider it with respect to the artist himself, or the great variety of historical facts which relate to others—it is indeed a very good supplement to the history of *Europe*, during the greatest part of the sixteenth century, more especially in what relates to printing, sculpture and architecture, and the most eminent masters in those elegant arts whose works *Cellini* praises or censures with peculiar freedom and energy

As to the man himself, there is not perhaps a more singular character among the race of *Adam*—the admired Lord *Herbert* of *Cherbury* scarce equals *Cellini* in the number of peculiar qualities which separate him from the rest of the human species

He is at once a man of pleasure and a slave to superstition—a despiser of vulgar notions, and a believer in magical incantations, a fighter of duels, and a composer of divine sonnets, an ardent lover of truth and a retuler of visionary fancies, an admirer of papal power, and a hater of popes, an offender against the laws, with a strong reliance on Divine Providence. If I may be allowed the expression *Cellini* is one striking feature added to the human form—a prodigy to be wondered at, not an example to be imitated

Though

Though *Cellini* was so blind to his own imperfections as to commit the most unjustifiable actions, with a full persuasion of the goodness of his cause and the rectitude of his intention, yet no man was a keener and more accurate observer of the blunders of others, hence his book abounds with caustick wit and satirical expression. Yet though his portraits are sometimes grotesque and over-charged, from mis-information, from melancholy, from infirmity, and from peculiarity of humour, in general it must be allowed that they are drawn from the life, and conformable to the idea given by cotemporary writers. His characters of pope *Clement* the seventh, *Paul* the third, and his bastard son *Pier Luigi*; *Francis* the first and his favourite mistress madam *d'Estampes*; *Cosmo* duke of *Florence*, and his duchess, with many others, are touched by the hand of a master.

General history cannot descend to minute details of the domestick life and private transactions, the passions and foibles of great personages, but these give truer representations of their characters than all the elegant and laboured compositions of poets and historians.

To some a register of the actions of a statuary may seem a heap of uninteresting occurrences, but the discerning will not disdain the efforts of a powerful mind, because the writer is not ennobled by birth, or dignified by station.

The man who raises himself by consummate merit in his profession to the notice of princes, who converses with them in a language dictated by honest freedom, who scruples not to tell them those truths

which they must despair to hear from courtiers and favourites, from minions and parasites, is a bold leveller of distinctions in the courts of powerful monarchs. 'Genius is the parent of truth' and courage—and these united dread no opposition.

The *Tuscan* language is greatly admired for its elegance, and the meanest inhabitants of *Florence* speak a dialect which the rest of *Italy* are proud to imitate. The style of *Cellini*, though plain and familiar, is vigorous and energetick. He possesses, to an uncommon degree, strength of expression, and rapidity of fancy. *Dr Nugent* seems to have carefully studied his author, and to have translated him with ease and freedom, as well as truth and fidelity \*

\* *Dr Nugent's* Translation was published in 1771 2 vols 8vo by *T Davis*. This article which was first inserted in *Dr Johnson's* works by *Sir John Hawkins*. I am unwilling to disturb although it has very little of the Doctor's manner. It is not noticed by *Mr Boswell* in his 'Chronological Catalogue' of *Dr Johnson's* Prose Works.

A

## VIEW OF THE CONTROVERSY

BETWEEN

Mons. CROUSAZ and Mr WARBURTON,

ON THE SUBJECT OF

Mr. POPE'S ESSAY ON MAN.

In a LETTER to the

EDITOR of *the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE*,  
vol XIII. 1743.

Mr URBAN,

IT would not be found useless in the learned world, if in written controversies as in oral disputations, a moderator could be selected, who might in some degree superintend the debate, restrain all needless excursions, repress all personal reflections, and at last recapitulate the arguments on each side, and who, though he should not assume the province of deciding the question, might at least exhibit it in its true state.

This reflection arose in my mind upon the consideration of Mr Crousaz's Commentary on the Essay on Man, and Mr Warburton's Answer to it. The importance of the subject, the reputation and abilities of the controvertists, and perhaps the ardour with which each has endeavoured to support his

his cause, have made an attempt of this kind necessary for the information of the greatest number of Mr Pope's readers

Among the duties of a moderator, I have mentioned that of recalling the disputants to the subject and cutting off the excrescences of a debate, which Mr Crousaz will not suffer to be long unemployed, and the repression of personal invectives, which have not been very carefully avoided on either part, and are less excusable, because it has not been proved, that either the poet, or his commentator, wrote with any other design than that of promoting happiness by cultivating reason and piety

Mr Warburton has indeed so much depressed the character of his adversary, that before I consider the controversy between them I think it necessary to exhibit some specimens of Mr Crousaz's sentiments, by which it will probably be shown, that he is far from deserving either indignation or contempt, that his notions are just though they are sometimes introduced without necessity, and defended when they are not opposed and that his abilities and parts are such as may entitle him to reverence from those who think his criticisms superfluous

In page 35 of the *English* translation, he exhibits an observation which every writer ought to impress upon his mind, and which may afford a sufficient apology for his commentary

On the notion of a ruling passion he offers this remark 'Nothing so much hinders men from obtaining a complete victory over their ruling  
' passion,

' passion, as that all the advantages gained in their  
 ' days of retreat, by just and sober reflections, whether  
 ' struck out by their own minds, or borrowed from  
 ' good books, or from the conversation of men of  
 ' merit, are destroyed in a few moments by a free  
 ' intercourse and acquaintance with libertines, and  
 ' thus the work is always to be begun anew. A  
 ' gamester resolves to leave off play, by which he  
 ' finds his health impaired, his family ruined and  
 ' his passions inflamed, in this resolution he persists  
 ' a few days, but soon yields to an invitation, which  
 ' will give his prevailing inclination an opportunity  
 ' of reviving in all its force. The case is the same  
 ' with other men but is reason to be charged with  
 ' these calamities and follies, or rather the man who  
 ' refuses to listen to its voice in opposition to imper-  
 ' tinent solicitations?'

On the means recommended for the attainment of  
 happiness, he observes, ' that the abilities which  
 ' our Maker has given us, and the internal and  
 ' external advantages with which he has invested  
 ' us, are of two very different kinds; those of one  
 ' kind are bestowed in common upon us and the  
 ' brute creation, but the other exalt us far above  
 ' other animals. To disregard any of these gifts  
 ' would be ingratitude, but to neglect those of  
 ' greater excellence, to go no farther than the gross  
 ' satisfactions of sense, and the functions of mere  
 ' animal life, would be a far greater crime. We are  
 ' formed by our Creator capable of acquiring know-  
 ' ledge, and regulating our conduct by reasonable  
 ' rules; it is therefore our duty to cultivate our un-  
 ' derstandings,

‘ derstandings, and exalt our virtues We need but  
 ‘ make the experiment to find, that the greatest  
 ‘ pleasures will arise from such endeavours

‘ It is trifling to allege in opposition to this truth  
 ‘ that knowledge cannot be acquired nor virtue  
 ‘ pursued without toil and efforts and that all efforts  
 ‘ produce fatigue God requires nothing dis-  
 ‘ proportioned to the powers he has given and in  
 ‘ the exercise of those powers consists the highest  
 ‘ satisfaction

‘ Toil and weariness are the effects of vanity  
 ‘ when a man has formed a design of excelling  
 ‘ others in merit, he is disquieted by their advances,  
 ‘ and leaves nothing unattempted, that he may step  
 ‘ before them this occasions a thousand unreason-  
 ‘ able emotions, which justly bring their punishment  
 ‘ along with them

‘ But let a man study and labour to cultivate and  
 ‘ improve his abilities in the eye of his Maker, and  
 ‘ with the prospect of his approbation, let him atten-  
 ‘ tively reflect on the infinite value of that approba-  
 ‘ tion, and the highest encomiums that men can  
 ‘ bestow will vanish into nothing at the comparison  
 ‘ When we live in this manner, we find that we live  
 ‘ for a great and glorious end

‘ When this is our frame of mind we find it no  
 ‘ longer difficult to restrain ourselves in the gratifica-  
 ‘ tions of eating and drinking, the most gross enjoy-  
 ‘ ments of sense We take what is necessary to pre-  
 ‘ serve health and vigour, but are not to give our  
 ‘ selves up to pleasures that weaken the attention,  
 ‘ and dull the understanding

And the true sense of Mr *Pope's* assertion, that *Whatever is, is right*, and I believe the sense in which it was written, is thus explained ‘ A sacred and  
 ‘ adorable order is established in the government of  
 ‘ mankind These are certain and unvaried truths :  
 ‘ he that seeks God, and makes it his happiness to  
 ‘ live in obedience to him, shall obtain what he en-  
 ‘ deavours after, in a degree far above his present  
 ‘ comprehension He that turns his back upon his  
 ‘ Creator, neglects to obey him, and perseveres in his  
 ‘ disobedience, shall obtain no other happiness than  
 ‘ he can receive from enjoyments of his own pro-  
 ‘ curing; void of satisfaction, weary of life, wasted  
 ‘ by empty cares and remorses equally harassing and  
 ‘ just, he will experience the certain consequences  
 ‘ of his own choice Thus will justice and good-  
 ‘ ness resume their empire, and that order be  
 ‘ restored which men have broken ’

I am afraid of wearying you or your readers with more quotations, but if you shall inform me that a continuation of my correspondence will be well received, I shall descend to particular passages, show how Mr *Pope* gave sometimes occasion to mistakes, and how Mr *Crousaz* was misled by his suspicion of the system of fatality.

I am, SIR, your's, &c.

PRELIMINARY DISCOURSE  
TO THE  
LONDON CHRONICLE,  
JANUARY 1, 1757\*

**I**T has always been lamented, that of the little time allotted to man, much must be spent upon superfluities. Every prospect has its obstructions which we must break to enlarge our view. every step of our progress finds impediments which however eager to go forward, we must stop to remove. Even those who profess to teach the way to happiness, have multiplied our incumbrances, and the author of almost every book retards his instructions by a preface.

The writers of the Chronicle hope to be easily forgiven, though they should not be free from an infection that has seized the whole fraternity, and instead of falling immediately to their subjects should detain the Reader for a time with an account of the importance of their design, the extent of their plan and the accuracy of the method which they intend to prosecute. Such premonitions, though not always necessary when the Reader has the book complete in his hand, and may find by his own eyes

\* Dr Johnson received the humble reward of a guinea from Mr Dodsley for this composition C

whatever can be found in it, yet may be more easily allowed to works published gradually in successive parts, of which the scheme can only be so far known as the author shall think fit to discover it

The Paper which we now invite the Publick to add to the Papers with which it is already rather wearied than satisfied, consists of many parts, some of which it has in common with other periodical sheets, and some peculiar to itself

The first demand made by the reader of a journal is, that he should find an accurate account of foreign transactions and domestick incidents. This is always expected, but this is very rarely performed. Of those writers who have taken upon themselves the task of intelligence, some have given and others have sold their abilities, whether small or great, to one or other of the parties that divide us, and without a wish for truth or thought of decency, without care of any other reputation than that of a stubborn adherence to their abettors, carry on the same tenor of representation through all the vicissitudes of right and wrong, neither depressed by detection, nor abashed by confutation, proud of the hourly increase of infamy, and ready to boast of all the contumelies that falsehood and slander may bring upon them, as new proofs of their zeal and fidelity

With these heroes we have no ambition to be numbered, we leave to the confessors of faction the merit of their sufferings, and are desirous to shelter ourselves under the protection of truth. That all our facts will be authentick, or all our remarks just, we dare not venture to promise. we can relate but what we hear, we can point out but what we see. Of re-  
 mote

mote transactions the first accounts are always confused, and commonly exaggerated and in domestick affairs if the power to conceal is less, the interest to misrepresent is often greater, and what is sufficiently vexatious truth seems to fly from curiosity, and as many enquirers produce many narratives, whatever engages the publick attention is immediately disguised by the embellishments of fiction We pretend to no peculiar power of disentangling contradiction or denuding forgery, we have no settled correspondence with the Antipodes nor maintain any spies in the cabinets of princes But as we shall always be conscious that our mistakes are involuntary, we shall watch the gradual discoveries of time, and retract whatever we have hastily and erroneously advanced

In the narratives of the daily writers every reader perceives somewhat of neatness and purity wanting which at the first view it seems easy to supply but it must be considered, that those passages must be written in haste, and that there is often no other choice, but that they must want either novelty or accuracy and that as life is very uniform, the affairs of one week are so like those of another, that by any attempt after variety of expression invention would soon be wearied, and language exhausted Some improvements however we hope to make and for the rest we think that when we commit only common faults, we shall not be excluded from common indulgence

The accounts of prices of corn and stocks are to most of our Readers of more importance than narratives of greater sound, and as exactness is here

within the reach of diligence, our readers may justly require it from us

Memorials of a private and personal kind, which relate deaths, marriages, and preferments, must always be imperfect by omission, and often erroneous by misinformation, but even in these there shall not be wanting care to avoid mistakes, or to rectify them whenever they shall be found

That part of our work, by which it is distinguished from all others, is the literary journal, or account of the labours and productions of the learned This was for a long time among the deficiencies of *English* literature, but as the caprice of man is always starting from too little to too much, we have now amongst other disturbers of human quiet, a numerous body of reviewers and remarkers

Every art is improved by the emulation of competitors, those who make no advances towards excellence, may stand as warnings against faults We shall endeavour to avoid that petulance which treats with contempt whatever has hitherto been reputed sacred We shall repress that elation of malignity, which wantons in the cruelties of criticism, and not only murders reputation, but murders it by torture Whenever we feel ourselves ignorant we shall at least be modest Our intention is not to preoccupy judgment by praise or censure, but to gratify curiosity by early intelligence, and to tell rather what our authors have attempted, than what they have performed The titles of books are necessarily short, and therefore disclose but imperfectly the contents, they are sometimes fraudulent and intended to raise false expectations In our account  
this

this brevity will be extended and these frauds whenever they are detected will be exposed, for though we write without intention to injure, we shall not suffer ourselves to be made parties to deceit

If any author shall transmit a summary of his work we shall willingly receive it, if any literary anecdote, or curious observation, shall be communicated to us, we will carefully insert it. Many facts are known and forgotten, many observations are made and suppressed, and entertainment and instruction are frequently lost for want of a repository in which they may be conveniently preserved

No man can modestly promise what he cannot ascertain we hope for the prudence of knowledge and discernment, but we claim only that of diligence and candour

# INTRODUCTION

## TO THE

### WORLD DISPLAYED\*.

NAVIGATION, like other arts, has been perfected by degrees. It is not easy to conceive that any age or nation was without some vessel, in which rivers might be passed by travellers, or lakes frequented by fishermen, but we have no knowledge of any ship that could endure the violence of the ocean before the ark of *Noah*

As the tradition of the deluge has been transmitted to almost all the nations of the earth, it must be supposed that the memory of the means by which *Noah* and his family were preserved, would be continued long among their descendants, and that the possibility of passing the seas could never be doubted

What men know to be practicable, a thousand motives will incite them to try, and there is reason to believe, that from the time that the generations of the postdiluvian race spread to the sea shores, there were always navigators that ventured upon the sea, though perhaps, not willingly beyond the sight of land

\* A collection of Voyages and Travels, selected from the writers of all nations, in twenty small pocket volumes, and published by *Newbery*, to oblige whom, it is conjectured that *Johnson* drew up this curious and learned paper, which appeared in the first volume, 1759.

Of the ancient voyages little certain is known and it is not necessary to lay before the Reader such conjectures as learned men have offered to the world. The *Romans* by conquering *Carthage*, put a stop to great part of the trade of distant nations with one another, and because they thought only on war and conquest, as their empire increased, commerce was discouraged, till under the latter emperors, ships seem to have been of little other use than to transport soldiers.

Navigation could not be carried to any great degree of certainty without the compass, which was unknown to the ancients. The wonderful quality by which a needle or small bar of steel, touched with a loadstone or magnet, and turning freely by equilibration on a point, always preserves the meridian, and directs its two ends north and south was discovered according to the common opinion in 1299, by *John Gola* of *Amalfi*, a town in *Italy*.

From this time it is reasonable to suppose that navigation made continual, though slow improvements which the confusion and barbarity of the times, and the want of communication between orders of men so distant as sailors and monks hindered from being distinctly and successively recorded.

It seems however that the sailors still wanted either knowledge or courage for they continued for two centuries to creep along the coast, and considered every headland as unpassable which ran far into the sea, and against which the waves broke with uncommon agitation.

The first who is known to have formed the design of new discoveries, or the first who had power to execute

execute his purposes, was *Don Henry* the fifth, son of *John*, the first king of *Portugal*, and *Philipina*, sister of *Henry* the fourth of *England*. *Don Henry* having attended his father to the conquest of *Ceuta*, obtained by conversation with the inhabitants of the continent, some accounts of the interior kingdoms and southern coast of *Africa*, which, though rude and indistinct, were sufficient to raise his curiosity, and convince him, that there were countries yet unknown and worthy of discovery.

He therefore equipped some small vessels, and commanded that they should pass as far as they could along that coast of *Africa* which looked upon the great *Atlantic* ocean, the immensity of which struck the gross and unskilful navigators of these times with terror and amazement. He was not able to communicate his own ardour to his seamen, who proceeded very slowly in the new attempt, each was afraid to venture much farther than he that went before him, and ten years were spent before they had advanced beyond cape *Bajador*, so called from its progression into the ocean, and the circuit by which it must be doubled. The opposition of this promontory to the course of the sea, produced a violent current and high waves, into which they durst not venture, and which they had not yet knowledge enough to avoid by standing off from the land into the open sea.

The prince was desirous to know something of the countries that lay beyond this formidable cape, and sent two commanders, named *John Gonzales Zarco*, and *Tristan Vaz*, in 1418, to pass beyond  
*Bajador*,

*Bayador*, and survey the coast behind it They were caught by a tempest, which drove them out into the unknown ocean, where they expected to perish by the violence of the wind or perhaps to wander for ever in the boundless deep At last, in the midst of their despair, they found a small island where they sheltered themselves, and which the sense of their deliverance disposed them to call *Puerto Santo*, or the *Holy Haven*

When they returned with an account of this new island, *Henry* performed a publick act of thanksgiving and sent them again with seeds and cattle, and we are told by the *Spanish* historian, that they set two rabbits on shore which increased so much in a few years, that they drove away the inhabitants, by destroying their corn and plants and were suffered to enjoy the island without opposition

In the second or third voyage to *Puerto Santo* (for authors do not agree which), a third captain called *Perello* was joined to the two former As they looked round the island upon the ocean they saw at a distance something which they took for a cloud, till they perceived that it did not change its place They directed their course towards it, and in 1419 discovered another island covered with trees which they therefore called *Madera* or the *Isle of Wood*

*Madera* was given to *Vaz* or *Zarco* who set fire to the woods which are reported by *Souza* to have burnt for seven years together, and to have been wasted till want of wood was the greatest inconvenience of the place But green wood is not very apt to burn, and the heavy rains which fall in these

these countries must surely have extinguished the conflagration, were it ever so violent

There was yet little progress made upon the southern coast, and *Henry's* project was treated as chimerical by many of his countrymen. At last *Gilanes*, in 1433, passed the dreadful cape, to which he gave the name of *Bayador*, and came back to the wonder of the nation

In two voyages more, made in the two following years, they passed forty-two leagues farther, and in the latter, two men with horses being set on shore, wandered over the country, and found nineteen men, whom, according to the savage manners of that age, they attacked, the natives having javelins, wounded one of the *Portuguese*, and received some wounds from them. At the mouth of a river they found seawolves in great numbers, and brought home many of their skins, which were much esteemed

*Antonio Gonzales*, who had been one of the associates of *Gilanes*, was sent again, in 1440, to bring back a cargo of the skins of seawolves. He was followed in another ship by *Nunno Tristam*. They were now of strength sufficient to venture upon violence, they therefore landed, and without either right or provocation, made all whom they seized their prisoners, and brought them to *Portugal*, with great commendations both from the prince and the nation.

*Henry* now began to please himself with the success of his projects, and as one of his purposes was the conversion of infidels, he thought it necessary to impart his undertaking to the pope, and to obtain the

the sanction of ecclesiastical authority To this end *Fernando Lopez d Azeredo* was despatched to *Rome*, who related to the pope and cardinals the great designs of *Henry*, and magnified his zeal for the propagation of religion The pope was pleased with the narrative and by a formal bull, conferred upon the crown of *Portugal* all the countries which should be discovered as far as *India* together with *India* itself, and granted several privileges and indulgences to the churches which *Henry* had built in his new regions, and to the men engaged in the navigation for discovery By this bull all other princes were forbidden to encroach upon the conquests of the *Portuguese*, on pain of the censures incurred by the crime of usurpation

The approbation of the pope the sight of men whose manners and appearance were so different from those of *Europeans*, and the hope of gain from golden regions, which has been always the great incentive to hazard and discovery, now began to operate with full force The desire of riches and of dominion, which is yet more pleasing to the fancy, filled the courts of the *Portuguese* prince with innumerable adventurers from very distant parts of *Europe* Some wanted to be employed in the search after new countries, and some to be settled in those which had been already found

Communities now began to be animated by the spirit of enterprise, and many associations were formed for the equipment of ships, and the acquisition of the riches of distant regions, which perhaps were always supposed to be more wealthy as more remote These undertakers agreed to pay the  
prince

these countries must surely have extinguished the conflagration, were it ever so violent

There was yet little progress made upon the southern coast, and *Henry's* project was treated as chimerical by many of his countrymen. At last *Gilanes*, in 1433, passed the dreadful cape, to which he gave the name of *Bajador*, and came back to the wonder of the nation

In two voyages more, made in the two following years, they passed forty-two leagues farther, and in the latter, two men with horses being set on shore, wandered over the country, and found nineteen men, whom, according to the savage manners of that age, they attacked, the natives having javelins, wounded one of the *Portuguese*, and received some wounds from them. At the mouth of a river they found seawolves in great numbers, and brought home many of their skins, which were much esteemed

*Antonio Gonzales*, who had been one of the associates of *Gilanes*, was sent again, in 1440, to bring back a cargo of the skins of seawolves. He was followed in another ship by *Nunno Tristam*. They were now of strength sufficient to venture upon violence, they therefore landed, and without either right or provocation, made all whom they seized their prisoners, and brought them to *Portugal*, with great commendations both from the prince and the nation.

*Henry* now began to please himself with the success of his projects, and as one of his purposes was the conversion of infidels, he thought it necessary to impart his undertaking to the pope, and to obtain  
the

the sanction of ecclesiastical authority To this end *Fernando Lopez d' Azeredo* was despatched to *Rome*, who related to the pope and cardinals the great designs of *Henry*, and magnified his zeal for the propagation of religion The pope was pleased with the narrative and by a formal bull, conferred upon the crown of *Portugal* all the countries which should be discovered as far as *India*, together with *India* itself, and granted several privileges and indulgences to the churches which *Henry* had built in his new region, and to the men engaged in the navigation for discovery By this bull, all other princes were forbidden to encroach upon the conquests of the *Portuguese*, on pain of the censures incurred by the crime of usurpation

The approbation of the pope, the sight of men whose manners and appearance were so different from those of *Europeans* and the hope of gain from golden regions which has been always the great incentive to hazard and discovery, now began to operate with full force The desire of riches and of dominion, which is yet more pleasing to the fancy filled the courts of the *Portuguese* prince with innumerable adventurers from very distant parts of *Europe* Some wanted to be employed in the search after new countries and some to be settled in those which had been already found

Communities now began to be animated by the spirit of enterprise, and many associations were formed for the equipment of ships, and the acquisition of the riches of distant regions which perhaps were always supposed to be more wealthy as more remote These undertakers agreed to pay the  
prince

prince a fifth part of the profit, sometimes a greater share, and sent out the armament at their own expense

The city of *Lagos* was the first that carried on this design by contribution. The inhabitants fitted out six vessels, under the command of *Lucarot*, one of the prince's household, and soon after fourteen more were furnished for the same purpose, under the same commander; to those were added many belonging to private men, so that in a short time twenty-six ships put to sea in quest of whatever fortune should present

The ships of *Lagos* were soon separated by foul weather, and the rest, taking each its own course, stopped at different parts of the *African* coast, from *Cape Blanco* to *Cape Verd*. Some of them, in 1444, anchored at *Gomera*, one of the *Canaries*, where they were kindly treated by the inhabitants, who took them into their service against the people of the isle of *Palma*, with whom they were at war, but the *Portuguese* at their return to *Gomera*, not being made so rich as they expected, fell upon their friends, in contempt of all the laws of hospitality and stipulations of alliance, and, making several of them prisoners and slaves, set sail for *Lisbon*

The *Canaries* are supposed to have been known, however imperfectly, to the ancients, but in the confusion of the subsequent ages they were lost and forgotten, till about the year 1340, the *Biscayners* found *Lucarot*, and invading it (for to find a new country and invade it has always been the same,) brought away seventy captives, and some commodities of the place. *Louis de la Cerda*, count of *Clermont*,

*Clermont*, of the blood royal both of *France* and *Spain*, nephew of *John de la Cerda* who called himself the Prince of Fortune, had once a mind to settle in those islands, and applying himself first to the king of *Arragon*, and then to *Clement VI* was by the pope crowned at *Avignon*, king of the *Canaries*, on condition that he should reduce them to the true religion, but the prince altered his mind, and went into *France* to serve against the *English*. The kings both of *Castile* and *Portugal*, though they did not oppose the papal grant yet complained of it, as made without their knowledge, and in contravention of their rights.

The first settlement in the *Canaries* was made by *John de Betancour*, a *French* gentleman, for whom his kinsman, *Robin de Braquemont* admiral of *France*, begged them, with the title of King, from *Henry* the magnificent of *Castile*, to whom he had done eminent services. *John* made himself master of some of the isles, but could never conquer the great *Canary*, and having spent all that he had, went back to *Europe*, leaving his nephew, *Massiot de Betancour*, to take care of his new dominion. *Massiot* had a quarrel with the vicar-general, and was likewise disgusted by the long absence of his uncle whom the *French* king detained in his service and being able to keep his ground no longer, he transferred his rights to *Don Henry*, in exchange for some districts in the *Madera*, where he settled his family.

*Don Henry* when he had purchased those islands sent thither in 1124, two thousand five hundred foot, and an hundred and twenty horse but the  
army

army was too numerous to be maintained by the country. The king of *Castile* afterwards claimed them, as conquered by his subjects under *Betancour*, and held under the crown of *Castile* by fealty and homage, his claim was allowed, and the *Canaries* were resigned

It was the constant practice of *Henry's* navigators, when they stopped at a desert island, to land cattle upon it, and leave them to breed, where, neither wanting room nor food, they multiplied very fast, and furnished a very commodious supply to those who came afterwards to the same place. This was imitated in some degree by *Anson*, at the isle of *Juan Fernandez*.

The islands of *Madera*, he not only filled with inhabitants, assisted by artificers of every kind, but procured such plants as seemed likely to flourish in that climate, and introduced sugar canes and vines, which afterwards produced a very large revenue.

The trade of *Africa* now began to be profitable, but a great part of the gain arose from the sale of slaves, who were annually brought into *Portugal*, by hundreds, as *Lafitau* relates, and without any appearance of indignation or compassion, they likewise imported gold dust in such quantities, that *Alphonsus V* coined it into a new species of money called *Crusades*, which is still continued in *Portugal*.

In time they made their way along the south coast of *Africa*, eastward to the country of the negroes, whom they found living in tents, without any political institutions, supporting life, with very little labour, by the milk of their kine, and millet, to  
which

which those who inhabited the coast added fish dried in the sun. Having never seen the natives or heard of the arts of *Europe*, they gazed with astonishment on the ships when they approached their coasts sometimes thinking them birds, and sometimes fishes, according as their sails were spread or lowered, and sometimes conceiving them to be only phantoms which played to and fro in the ocean. Such is the account given by the historian, perhaps with too much prejudice against a negro's understanding, who, though he might well wonder at the bulk and swiftness of the first ship would scarcely conceive it to be either a bird or a fish, but having seen many bodies floating in the water, would think it what it really is, a huge boat, and if he had no knowledge of any means by which separate pieces of timber may be joined together would form very wild notions concerning its construction, or perhaps suppose it to be a hollow trunk of a tree, from some country where trees grow to a much greater height and thickness than in his own.

When the *Portuguese* came to land, they increased the astonishment of the poor inhabitants, who saw men clad in iron, with thunder and lightning in their hands. They did not understand each other, and signs are a very imperfect mode of communication even to men of more knowledge than the negroes, so that they could not easily negotiate or traffick. At last the *Portuguese* laid hands on some of them to carry them home for a sample, and their dread and amazement was raised, says *Lafitau* to the highest pitch, when the *Europeans* fired their can-

nons and muskets among them, and they saw their companions fall dead at their feet, without any enemy at hand, or any visible cause of their destruction

On what occasion, or for what purpose, cannons and muskets were discharged among a people harmless and secure, by strangers who without any right visited their coast, it is not thought necessary to inform us. The *Portuguese* could fear nothing from them, and had therefore no adequate provocation; nor is there any reason to believe but that they murdered the negroes in wanton merriment, perhaps only to try how many a volley would destroy, or what would be the consternation of those that should escape. We are openly told, that they had the less scruple concerning their treatment of the savage people, because they scarcely considered them as distinct from beasts, and indeed the practice of all the *European* nations, and among others of the *English* barbarians that cultivate the southern islands of *America*, proves, that this opinion, however absurd and foolish, however wicked and injurious, still continues to prevail. Interest and pride harden the heart, and it is in vain to dispute against avarice and power

By these practices the first discoverers alienated the natives from them, and whenever a ship appeared, every one that could fly betook himself to the mountains and the woods, so that nothing was to be got more than they could steal. they sometimes surprised a few fishers, and made them slaves, and did what they could to offend the negroes, and enrich themselves. This practice of robbery continued till  
some

some of the negroes who had been enslaved learned the language of *Portugal* so as to be able to interpret for their countrymen, and one *John Fernandez* applied himself to the negro tongue

From this time began something like a regular traffick, such as can subsist between nations where all the power is on one side and a factory was settled in the isle of *Arguin*, under the protection of a fort The profit of this new trade was assigned for a certain term to *Ferdinando Gomez* which seems to be the common method of establishing a trade that is yet too small to engage the care of a nation and can only be enlarged by that attention which is bestowed by private men upon private advantage *Gomez* continued the discoveries to *Cape Catherine* two degrees and a half beyond the line <sup>1</sup>

In the latter part of the reign of *Alphonso V* the ardour of discovery was somewhat intermitted, and all commercial enterprises were interrupted by the wars in which he was engaged with various success But *John II* who succeeded being fully convinced both of the honour and advantage of extending his dominions in countries hitherto unknown prosecuted the designs of prince *Henry* with the utmost vigour and in a short time added to his other titles, that of King of *Guinea* and of the coast of *Africa*

In 1463 in the third year of the reign of *John II* died prince *Henry* the first encourager of remote navigation by whose incitement patronage and example, distant nations have been made acquainted with each other, unknown countries have been brought into general view and the power of *Europe* has been extended to the remotest parts of the world

What mankind has lost and gained by the genius and designs of this prince, it would be long to compare, and very difficult to estimate. Much knowledge has been acquired, and much cruelty been committed, the belief of religion has been very little propagated, and its laws have been outrageously and enormously violated. The *Europeans* have scarcely visited any coast, but to gratify avarice, and extend corruption, to arrogate dominion without right, and practise cruelty without incentive. Happy had it then been for the oppressed, if the designs of *Henry* had slept in his bosom, and surely more happy for the oppressors. But there is reason to hope that out of so much evil good may sometimes be produced, and that the light of the gospel will at last illuminate the sands of *Africa*, and the deserts of *America*, though its progress cannot but be slow, when it is so much obstructed by the lives of christians.

The death of *Henry* did not interrupt the progress of king *John*, who was very strict in his injunctions, not only to make discoveries, but to secure possession of the countries that were found. The practice of the first navigators was only to raise a cross upon the coast, and to carve upon trees the device of Don *Henry*, the name which they thought it proper to give to the new coast, and any other information, for those that might happen to follow them, but now they began to erect piles of stone with a cross on the top, and engraved on the stone the arms of *Portugal*, the name of the king, and of the commander of the ship, with the day and year of the discovery. This was accounted sufficient to prove their

their claim to the new lands, which might be pleaded with justice enough against any other *Europeans*, and the rights of the original inhabitants were never taken into notice. Of these stone records nine more were erected in the reign of king *John*, along the coast of *Africa*, as far as the *Cape of Good Hope*.

The fortress in the isle of *Arguin* was finished, and it was found necessary to build another at *S. Georgio de la Mina*, a few degrees north of the line, to secure the trade of gold dust which was chiefly carried on at that place. For this purpose a fleet was fitted out of ten large and three smaller vessels freighted with materials for building the fort and with provisions and ammunition for six hundred men of whom one hundred were workmen and labourers. Father *Lafitau* relates, in very particular terms, that these ships carried hewn stones, bricks, and timber for the fort, so that nothing remained but barely to erect it. He does not seem to consider how small a fort could be made out of the lading of ten ships.

The command of this fleet was given to Don *Diego d Azambue* who set sail December 11, 1481, and reaching *La Mina*, January 19, 1482, gave immediate notice of his arrival to *Caramansa* a petty prince of that part of the country, whom he very earnestly invited to an immediate conference.

Having received a message of civility from the negro chief, he landed, and chose a rising ground proper for his intended fortress, on which he planted a banner with the arms of *Portugal*, and took possession in the name of his master. He then raised

an altar at the foot of a great tree, on which mass was celebrated, the whole assembly, says *Lasiluu*, breaking out into tears of devotion at the prospect of inviting these barbarous nations to the profession of the true faith. Being secure of the goodness of the end, they had no scruple about the means, nor ever considered how differently from the primitive martyrs and apostles they were attempting to make proselytes. The first propagators of christianity recommended their doctrines by their sufferings and virtues, they entered no defenceless territories with swords in their hands, they built no forts upon ground to which they had no right, nor polluted the purity of religion with the avarice of trade, or insolence of power.

What may still raise higher the indignation of a christian mind, this purpose of propagating truth appears never to have been seriously pursued by any *European* nation, no means, whether lawful or unlawful, have been practised with diligence and perseverance for the conversion of savages. When a fort is built, and a factory established, there remains no other care than to grow rich. It is soon found that ignorance is most easily kept in subjection, and that by enlightening the mind with truth, fraud and usurpation would be made less practicable and less secure.

In a few days an interview was appointed between *Caramansa* and *Azambue*. The *Portuguese* uttered by his interpreter a pompous speech, in which he made the negro prince large offers of his master's friendship, exhorting him to embrace the religion of his new ally, and told him, that as they came to

form a league of friendship with him, it was necessary that they should build a fort, which might serve as a retreat from their common enemies, and in which the *Portuguese* might be always at hand to lend him assistance

The negro, who seemed very well to understand what the admiral intended, after a short pause, returned an answer full of respect to the king of *Portugal*, but appeared a little doubtful what to determine with relation to the fort. The commander saw his diffidence, and used all his art of persuasion to overcome it. *Caramansa* either induced by hope, or constrained by fear, either desirous to make them friends, or not daring to make them enemies, consented, with a show of joy, to that which it was not in his power to refuse. and the new comers began the next day to break the ground for a foundation of a fort

Within the limit of their intended fortification were some spots appropriated to superstitious practices which the negroes no sooner perceived in danger of violation by the spade and pickaxe, than they ran to arms and began to interrupt the work. The *Portuguese* persisted in their purpose and there had soon been tumult and bloodshed, had not the admiral, who was at a distance to superintend the unloading the materials for the edifice, been informed of the danger. He was told at the same time, that the support of their superstition was only a pretence, and that all their rage might be appeased by the presents which the prince expected, the delay of which had greatly offended him

The *Portuguese* admiral immediately ran to his men, prohibited all violence, and stopped the commotion, he then brought out the presents, and spread them with great pomp before the prince, if they were of no great value, they were rare, for the negroes had never seen such wonders before, they were therefore received with ecstasy, and perhaps the *Portuguese* derided them for their fondness of trifles, without considering how many things derive their value only from their scarcity, and that gold and rubies would be trifles, if nature had scattered them with less frugality

The work was now peaceably continued, and such was the diligence with which the strangers hastened to secure the possession of the country, that in twenty days they had sufficiently fortified themselves against the hostility of the negroes. They then proceeded to complete their design. A church was built in the place where the first altar had been raised, on which a mass was established to be celebrated for ever, once a day, for the repose of the soul of *Henry*, the first mover of these discoveries

In this fort the admiral remained with sixty soldiers, and sent back the rest in the ships, with gold, slaves, and other commodities. It may be observed that slaves were never forgotten, and that wherever they went, they gratified their pride, if not their avarice, and brought some of the natives, when it happened that they brought nothing else

The *Portuguese* endeavoured to extend their dominions still farther. They had gained some knowledge of the *Jaloffs*, a nation inhabiting the coast of *Guinea*, between the *Gambia* and *Senegal*.

The

The king of the *Jaloffs* being vicious and luxurious, committed the cure of the government to *Bemoin*, his brother by the mother's side, in preference to two other brothers by his father *Bemoin* who wanted neither bravery nor prudence knew that his station was invidious and dangerous, and therefore made an alliance with the *Portuguese*, and returned them in his defence by liberality and kindness. At last the king was killed by the contrivance of his brothers and *Bemoin* was to lose his power, or maintain it by war.

He had recourse in this exigence to his great ally the king of *Portugal*, who promised to support him on condition that he should become a christian, and sent an ambassador, accompanied with missionaries. *Bemoin* promised all that was required, objecting only that the time of a civil war was not a proper season for a change of religion, which would alienate his adherents. but said, that when he was once peaceably established, he would not only embrace the true religion himself but would endeavour the conversion of the kingdom.

This excuse was admitted, and *Bemoin* delayed his conversion for a year, renewing his promise from time to time. But the war was unsuccessful, trade was at a stand, and *Bemoin* was not able to pay the money which he had borrowed of the *Portuguese* merchants, who sent intelligence to *Lisbon* of his delays and received an order from the king, commanding them, under severe penalties, to return home.

*Bemoin* here saw his ruin approaching and hoping that money would pacify all resentment borrowed  
of

of his friends a sum sufficient to discharge his debts, and finding that even this enticement would not delay the departure of the *Portuguese*, he embarked his nephew in ten ships, with an hundred slaves, whom he presented to the king of *Portugal*, to solicit his assistance. The effect of this embassy he could not stay to know, for being soon after deposed, he sought shelter in the fortress of *Aguin*, whence he took shipping for *Portugal* with twenty-five of his principal followers.

The king of *Portugal* pleased his own vanity and that of his subjects, by receiving him with great state and magnificence, as a mighty monarch who had fled to an ally for succour in misfortune. All the lords and ladies of the court were assembled, and *Bernon* was conducted with a splendid attendance into the hall of audience, where the king rose from his throne to welcome him. *Bernon* then made a speech with great ease and dignity, representing his unhappy state, and imploring the favour of his powerful ally. The king was touched with his affliction, and struck by his wisdom.

The conversion of *Bernon* was much desired by the king, and it was therefore immediately proposed to him that he should become a christian. Ecclesiasticks were sent to instruct him, and having now no more obstacles from interest, he was easily persuaded to declare himself whatever would please those on whom he now depended. He was baptized on the third day of December 1489, in the palace of the queen, with great magnificence, and named *John* after the king.

Some

Some time was spent in feasts and sports on this great occasion and the negroes signalled the natives by many feats of agility, far surpassing the power of *Europeans*, who having more helps of art, are less diligent to cultivate the qualities of nature. In the mean time twenty large ships were fitted out well manned, stored with ammunition, and laden with materials necessary for the erection of a fort. With this powerful armament were sent a great number of missionaries under the direction of *Alvarez* the king's confessor. The command of this force, which filled the coast of *Africa* with terror, was given to *Pedro Laz d'Acugna* surnamed *Bisagu* who soon after they had landed, not being well pleased with his expedition, put an end to its inconveniences by stabbing *Lemon* suddenly to the heart. The king heard of this outrage with great sorrow, but did not attempt to punish the murderer.

The king's concern for the restoration of *Benoin* was not the mere effect of kindness, he hoped by his help to facilitate greater designs. He now began to form hopes of finding a way to the *East Indies*, and of enriching his country by that gainful commerce, this he was encouraged to believe practicable by a map which the Moors had given to prince *Henry* and which subsequent discoveries have shown to be sufficiently near to exactness, where a passage round the south east part of *Africa* was evidently described.

The king had another scheme yet more likely to engage curiosity, and not irreconcilable with his interest. The world had for some time been filled with the report of a powerful christian prince called  
*Priester*

*Priester John*, whose country was unknown, and whom some, after *Paulus Venetus*, supposed to reign in the midst of *Asia*, and others in the depth of *Ethiopia*, between the ocean and Red Sea. The account of the *African* christians was confirmed by some *Abyssinians* who had travelled into *Spain*, and by some friars that had visited the holy land, and the king was extremely desirous of their correspondence and alliance.

Some obscure intelligence had been obtained, which made it seem probable that a way might be found from the countries lately discovered, to those of this far-famed monarch. In 1486, an ambassadour came from the king of *Bemini* to desire that preachers might be sent to instruct him and his subjects in the true religion. He related that in the inland country, three hundred and fifty leagues eastward from *Bemini*, was a mighty monarch called *Ogane*, who had jurisdiction both spiritual and temporal over other kings, that the king of *Bemini* and his neighbours, at their accession, sent ambassadours to him with rich presents, and received from him the investiture of their dominions, and the marks of sovereignty, which were a kind of sceptre, a helmet, and a latten cross, without which they could not be considered as lawful kings; that this great prince was never seen but on the day of audience, and then held out one of his feet to the ambassadour, who kissed it with great reverence, and who at his departure had a cross of latten hung on his neck, which ennobled him thenceforward, and exempted him from all servile offices.

*Bemoin*

*Bemoin* had likewise told the king that to the east of the kingdom of *Tombut*, there was among other princes, one that was neither *Mohometan* nor idolater, but who seemed to profess a religion nearly resembling the christian. These informations compared with each other and with the current accounts of *Priester John*, induced the king to an opinion which though formed somewhat at hazard is still believed to be right, that by passing up the river *Senegal* his dominions would be found. It was therefore ordered that when the fortress was finished an attempt should be made to pass upward to the source of the river. The design failed then, and has never yet succeeded.

Other ways likewise were tried of penetrating to the kingdom of *Priester John* for the king resolved to leave neither sea nor land unsearched till he should be found. The two messengers who were sent first on this design went to *Jerusalem* and then returned, being persuaded that for want of understanding the language of the country it would be vain or impossible to travel farther. Two more were then despatched one of whom was *Pedro de Covillan*, the other *Alphonso de Pavia* they passed from *Naples* to *Alexandria* and then travelled to *Cano*, from whence they went to *Aden* a town of *Arabia* on the Red Sea near its mouth. From *Aden* *Pavia* set sail for *Ethiopia* and *Covillan* for the *Indies*. *Covillan* visited *Canara*, *Calicut*, and *Goa* in the *Indies*, and *Sosula* in the eastern *Africa* thence he returned to *Aden* and then to *Cano* where he had agreed to meet *Pavia*. At *Cano* he was informed that *Pavia* was dead but he met with two *Portuguese* Jews, one of whom had given the king an account

account of the situation and trade of *Ormus* they brought orders to *Corillan*, that he should send one of them home with the journal of his travels, and go to *Ormus* with the other

*Corillan* obeyed the orders, sending an exact account of his adventures to *Lisbon*, and proceeding with the other messenger to *Ormus*, where having made sufficient inquiry, he sent his companion homewards with the caravans that were going to *Aleppo*, and embarking once more on the Red Sea, arrived in time at *Abyssinia*, and found the prince whom he had sought so long, and with such danger.

Two ships were sent out upon the same search, of which *Bartholomeo Diaz* had the chief command; they were attended by a smaller vessel laden with provisions, that they might not return upon pretence of want either felt or feared

Navigation was now brought nearer to perfection. The *Portuguese* claim the honour of many inventions by which the sailor is assisted, and which enable him to leave sight of land, and commit himself to the boundless ocean. *Diaz* had orders to proceed beyond the river *Zaire*, where *Diego Can* had stopped, to build monuments of his discoveries, and to leave upon the coasts negro men and women well instructed, who might inquire after *Prester John*, and fill the natives with reverence for the *Portuguese*

*Diaz*, with much opposition from his crew, whose mutinies he repressed, partly by softness and partly by steadiness, sailed on till he reached the utmost point of *Africa*, which from the bad weather that he met there, he called *Caba Tormentoso*, or the Cape of Storms.

**Storms** He would have gone forward but his crew forced him to return. In his way back he met the *Victueller*, from which he had been parted nine months before, of the nine men which were in it at the separation, six had been killed by the negroes, and of the three remaining one died for joy at the sight of his friends. *Diaz* returned to *Lisbon* in December 1487, and gave an account of his voyage to the king who ordered the Cape of Storms to be called thenceforward *Cabo de Buena Esperanza*, or the *Cape of Good Hope*.

Some time before the expedition of *Diaz*, the river *Zaire* and the kingdom of *Congo* had been discovered by *Diego Can*, who found a nation of negroes who spoke a language which those that were in his ships could not understand. He landed, and the natives, whom he expected to fly like the other inhabitants of the coast, met them with confidence, and treated them with kindness but *Diego*, finding that they could not understand each other, seized some of their chiefs and carried them to *Portugal*, leaving some of his own people in their room to learn the language of *Congo*.

The negroes were soon pacified, and the *Portuguese* left to their mercy were well treated and as they by degrees grew able to make themselves understood recommended themselves their nation, and their religion. The king of *Portugal* sent *Diego* back in a very short time with the negroes whom he had forced away, and when they were set safe on shore the king of *Congo* conceived so much esteem for *Diego* that he sent one of those who had returned back again in the ship to *Lisbon*, with

two young men despatched as ambassadours, to desire instructois to be sent for the conversion of his kingdom.

The ambassadours were honourably received, and baptized with great pomp, and a fleet was immediately fitted out for *Congo*, under the command of *Gonsalvo Sorza*, who dying in his passage, was succeeded in authority by his nephew *Roderigo*

When they came to land, the king's uncle, who commanded the province, immediately requested to be solemnly initiated into the christian religion, which was granted to him and his young son, on Easter day 1491 The father was named *Manuel*, and the son *Antono* Soon afterwards the king, queen, and eldest prince, received at the font the names of *John*, *Elcanor*, and *Alphonso*; and a war breaking out, the whole army was admitted to the rites of christianity, and then sent against the enemy. They returned victorious, but soon forgot their faith, and formed a conspiracy to restore paganism, a powerful opposition was raised by infidels and apostates, headed by one of the king's younger sons; and the missionaries had been destroyed had not *Alphonso* pleaded for them and for christianity

The enemies of religion now became the enemies of *Alphonso*, whom they accused to his father of disloyalty His mother, queen *Eleanor*, gained time by one artifice after another, till the king was calmed, he then heard the cause again, declared his son innocent, and punished his accusers with death

The king died soon after, and the throne was disputed by *Alphonso*, supported by the christians,  
and

and *Aquitimo* his brother, followed by the infidels. A battle was fought, *Aquitimo* was taken and put to death and christianity was for a time established in *Congo* but the nation has relapsed into its former follies.

Such was the state of the *Portuguese* navigation when, in 1492, *Columbus* made the daring and prosperous voyage, which gave a new world to *European* curiosity and *European* cruelty. He had offered his proposal, and declared his expectations to king *John* of *Portugal*, who had slighted him as a fanciful and rash projector, that promised what he had not reasonable hopes to perform. *Columbus* had solicited other princes, and had been repulsed with the same indignity, at last *Isabella* of *Arragon* furnished him with ships and having found *America* he entered the mouth of the *Tagus* in his return, and showed the natives of the new country. When he was admitted to the king's presence, he acted and talked with so much haughtiness, and reflected on the neglect which he had undergone with so much acrimony, that the courtiers, who saw their prince insulted, offered to destroy him, but the king, who knew that he deserved the reproaches that had been used and who now sincerely regretted his incredulity, would suffer no violence to be offered him, but dismissed him with presents and with honours.

The *Portuguese* and *Spaniards* became now jealous of each other's claim to countries which neither had yet seen, and the Pope, to whom they appealed divided the new world between them by a line drawn from north to south, a hundred leagues west

ward from *Cape Verd* and the *Azores*, giving all that lies west from that line to the *Spaniards*, and all that lies east to the *Portuguese*. This was no satisfactory division, for the east and west must meet at last, but that time was then at a great distance.

According to this grant, the *Portuguese* continued their discoveries eastward, and became masters of much of the coast both of *Africa* and the *Indies*; but they seized much more than they could occupy, and while they were under the dominion of *Spain*, lost the greater part of their *Indian* territories.

THE  
P R E F A C E  
TO THE  
P R E C E P T O R  
CONTAINING  
A GENERAL PLAN OF EDUCATION

THE importance of Education is a point so generally understood and confessed that it would be of little use to attempt any new proof or illustration of its necessity and advantages

At a time when so many schemes of education have been projected, so many proposals offered to the Publick, so many schools opened for general knowledge, and so many lectures in particular sciences attended, at a time when mankind seems intent *rather upon familiarising than enlarging the several arts*, and every age, sex, and profession, is invited to an acquaintance with those studies, which were formerly supposed accessible only to such as had devoted themselves to literary leisure, and dedicated their powers to philosophical inquiries, it seems rather requisite that an apology should be made for any further attempt to smooth a path so

\* Published in 1748, by Dodsley

frequently beaten, or to recommend attainments so aidently pursued, and so officiously directed

That this general desire may not be frustrated, our schools seem yet to want some book, which may excite curiosity by its variety, encourage diligence by its facility, and reward application by its usefulness. In examining the treatises hitherto offered to the youth of this nation, there appeared none that did not fail in one or other of these essential qualities, none that were not either unpleasing, or abstruse, or crowded with learning, very rarely applicable to the purposes of common life.

Every man, who has been engaged in teaching, knows with how much difficulty youthful minds are confined to close application, and how readily they deviate to any thing, rather than attend to that which is imposed as a task. That this disposition, when it becomes inconsistent with the forms of education, is to be checked, will be readily granted, but since, though it may be in some degree obviated, it cannot wholly be suppressed, it is surely rational to turn it to advantage, by taking care that the mind shall never want objects on which its faculties may be usefully employed. It is not impossible, that this restless desire of novelty, which gives so much trouble to the teacher, may be often the struggle of the understanding starting from that to which it is not by nature adapted, and travelling in search of something on which it may fix with greater satisfaction. For without supposing each man particularly marked out by his genius for particular performances, it may be easily conceived, that when a numerous  
class

class of boys is confined indiscriminately to the same forms of composition, the repetition of the same words, or the explication of the same sentiments, the employment must, either by nature or accident, be less suitable to some than others, that the ideas to be contemplated may be too difficult for the apprehension of one, and too obvious for that of another they may be such as some understandings cannot reach, though others look down upon them as below their regard Every mind in its progress through the different stages of scholastick learning, must be often in one of the e conditions, must either flag with the labour or grow wanton with the facility of the work & signed and in either state it naturally turns aside from the track before it Weariness looks out for relief, and leisure for employment, and surely it is rational to indulge the wanderings of both For the faculties which are too lightly burthened with the business of the day, may with great propriety add to it some other inquiry and he that finds himself over wearied by a task, which, perhaps with all his efforts, he is not able to perform, is undoubtedly to be justified in addicting himself rather to easier studies, and endeavouring to quit that which is above his attainment, for that which nature has not made him incapable of pursuing with advantage

That therefore this roving curiosity may not be unsatisfied, it seems necessary to scatter in its way such allurements as may withhold it from an useless and unbounded dissipation such as may regulate it without violence and direct it without restraint, such as may suit every inclination, and fit every

capacity, may employ the stronger genius, by operations of reason, and engage the less active or forcible mind, by supplying it with easy knowledge, and obviating that despondence, which quickly prevails, when nothing appears but a succession of difficulties, and one labour only ceases that another may be imposed

A book intended thus to correspond with all dispositions, and afford entertainment for minds of different powers, is necessarily to contain treatises on different subjects. As it is designed for schools, though for the higher classes, it is confined wholly to such parts of knowledge as young minds may comprehend, and as it is drawn up for Readers yet unexperienced in life, and unable to distinguish the useful from the ostentatious or unnecessary parts of science, it is requisite that a very nice distinction should be made, that nothing unprofitable should be admitted for the sake of pleasure, nor any arts of attraction neglected, that might fix the attention upon more important studies

These considerations produced the book which is here offered to the Publick, as better adapted to the great design of pleasing by instruction, than any which has hitherto been admitted into our seminaries of literature. There are not indeed wanting in the world compendiums of science, but many were written at a time when philosophy was imperfect, as that of *G. Valla*, many contain only naked schemes, or synoptical tables, as that of *Stierius*, and others are too large and voluminous, as that of *Alstedius*, and, what is not to be considered as the least objection, they are generally in  
3 a language,

A language, which, to boys, is more difficult than the subject, and it is too hard a task to be condemned to learn a new science in an unknown tongue. As in life, so in study, it is dangerous to do more things than one at a time, and the mind is not to be harassed with unnecessary obstructions, in a way of which the natural and unavoidable asperity is such as too frequently produces despair.

If the language however had been the only objection to any of the volumes already extant, the schools might have been supplied at a small expense by a translation, but none could be found that was not so defective, redundant, or erroneous, as to be of more danger than use. It was necessary then to examine, whether upon every single science there was not some treatise written for the use of scholars, which might be adapted to this design so that a collection might be made from different authors, without the necessity of writing new systems. This search was not wholly without success, for two authors were found, whose performances might be admitted with little alteration. But so widely does this plan differ from all others, so much has the state of many kinds of learning been changed or so unfortunately have they hitherto been cultivated, that none of the other subjects were explained in such a manner as was now required and therefore neither care nor expense has been spared to obtain new lights, and procure to this book the merit of an original.

With what judgment the design has been formed and with what skill it has been executed the learned world is now to determine. But before sentence

shall pass, it is proper to explain more fully what has been intended, that censure may not be incurred by the omission of that which the original plan did not comprehend, to declare more particularly who they are to whose instructions these treatises pretend, that a charge of arrogance and presumption may be obviated, to lay down the reasons which directed the choice of the several subjects, and to explain more minutely the manner in which each particular part of these volumes is to be used

The title has already declared, that these volumes are particularly intended for the use of schools, and therefore it has been the care of the authors to explain the several sciences, of which they have treated, in the most familiar manner, for the mind used only to common expressions, and inaccurate ideas, does not suddenly conform itself to scholastick modes of reasoning, or conceive the nice distinctions of a subtle philosophy, and may be properly initiated in speculative studies by an introduction like this, in which the grossness of vulgar conception is avoided, without the observation of metaphysical exactness. It is observed, that in the course of the natural world no change is instantaneous, but all its vicissitudes are gradual and slow, the motions of intellect proceed in the like imperceptible progression, and proper degrees of transition from one study to another are therefore necessary, but let it not be charged upon the writers of this book that they intended to exhibit more than the dawn of knowledge, or pretended to raise in the mind any nobler product than the blossoms of science, which more powerful institutions may ripen into fruit.

For

For this reason it must not be expected that in the following pages should be found a complete circle of the sciences or that any authors, now deservedly esteemed, should be rejected to make way for what is here offered. It was intended by the means of these precepts not to deck the mind with ornaments but to protect it from nakedness not to enrich it with affluence, but to supply it with necessities. The *inquiry* therefore was not what degrees of knowledge we desirable, but what are in most stations of life indispensably required, and the *choice* was determined not by the splendour of any part of literature but by the extent of its use and the inconvenience which its neglect was likely to produce.

I The prevalence of this consideration appears in the first part which is appropriated to the humble purposes of teaching to *read* and *spell* and *write letters*, an attempt of little magnificence, but in which no man needs to blush for having employed his time if honour be estimated by use. For precepts of this kind however neglected extend their importance as far as men are found who communicate their thoughts one to another they are equally useful to the highest and the lowest they may often contribute to make ignorance less inelegant and may it not be observed, that they are frequently wanted for the embellishment even of learning?

In order to show the proper use of this part which consists of various exemplifications of such differences of style as require correspondent diversities of pronunciation, it will be proper to inform the scholar, that

## 298 PREFACE TO THE PRECEPTOR

that there are in general three forms of style, each of which demands its particular mode of elocution; the *familiar*, the *solemn*, and the *pathetick*. That in the *familiar*, he that reads is only to talk with a paper in his hand, and to indulge himself in all the lighter liberties of voice, as when he reads the common articles of a news-paper, or a cursory letter of intelligence or business. That the *solemn* style, such as that of a serious narrative, exacts an uniform steadiness of speech, equal, clear, and calm. That for the *pathetick*, such as an animated oration, it is necessary the voice be regulated by the sense, varying and rising with the passions. These rules, which are the most general, admit a great number of subordinate observations, which must be particularly adapted to every scholar; for it is observable, that though very few read well, yet every man errs in a different way. But let one remark never be omitted. inculcate strongly to every scholar the danger of copying the voice of another, an attempt which, though it has been often repeated, is always unsuccessful.

The importance of writing letters with propriety justly claims to be considered with care, since, next to the power of pleasing with his presence, every man would wish to be able to give delight at a distance. This great art should be diligently taught, the rather, because of those letters which are most useful, and by which the general business of life is transacted, there are no *examples* easily to be found. It seems the general fault of those who undertake this part of education, that they propose, for the exercise of their scholars, occasions which rarely happen;

happen such as congratulations and condolences, and neglect those without which life cannot proceed. It is possible to pass many years without the necessity of writing panegyrics or epithalamiums, but every man has frequent occasion to state a contract, or demand a debt, or make a narrative of some minute incidents of common life. On these subjects therefore young persons should be taught to think justly, and write clearly, neatly, and succinctly, lest they come from school into the world without any acquaintance with common affairs and stand idle spectators of mankind in expectation that some great event will give them an opportunity to exert their rhetoric.

II The second place is assigned to *geometry*, on the usefulness of which it is unnecessary to expatiate in an age when mathematical studies have so much engaged the attention of all classes of men. This treatise is one of those which have been borrowed being a translation from the work of Mr *Le Clerc* and is not intended as more than the first initiation. In delivering the fundamental principles of *geometry* it is necessary to proceed by slow steps, that each proposition may be fully understood before another is attempted. For which purpose it is not sufficient that when a question is asked in the words of the book the scholar likewise can in the words of the book return the proper answer for this may be only an act of memory, not of understanding. It is always proper to vary the words of the question, to place the proposition in different points of view, and to require of the learner an explanation in his own terms, informing him however when they are im-  
proper

proper. By this method the scholar will become cautious and attentive, and the master will know with certainty the degree of his proficiency. Yet, though this rule is generally right, I cannot but recommend a precept of *Pardie's*, that when the student cannot be made to comprehend some particular part, it should be, for that time, laid aside, till new light shall arise from subsequent observation.

When this compendium is completely understood, the scholar may proceed to the perusal of *Tacquet*, afterwards of *Euclid* himself, and then of the modern improvers of *geometry*, such as *Barrow*, *Keil*, and *Sir Isaac Newton*.

III The necessity of some acquaintance with *geography* and *astronomy* will not be disputed. If the pupil is born to the ease of a large fortune, no part of learning is more necessary to him than the knowledge of the situation of nations, on which their interest generally depend, if he is dedicated to any of the learned professions, it is scarcely possible that he will not be obliged to apply himself in some part of his life to these studies, as no other branch of literature can be fully comprehended without them, if he is designed for the arts of commerce or agriculture, some general acquaintance with these sciences will be found extremely useful to him, in a word, no studies afford more extensive, more wonderful, or more pleasing scenes; and therefore there can be no ideas impressed upon the soul, which can more conduce to its future entertainment.

In the pursuit of these sciences, it will be proper to proceed with the same gradation and caution as

in *geometry* And it is always of use to decorate the nakedness of science, by interspersing such observations and narratives as may amuse the mind and excite curiosity Thus, in explaining the state of the polar regions, it might be fit to read the narrative of the *Englishmen* that wintered in *Greenland*, which will make young minds sufficiently curious after the cause of such a length of night and intenseness of cold, and many stratagems of the same kind might be practised to interest them in all parts of their studies, and call in their passions to animate their inquiries When they have read this treatise, it will be proper to recommend to them *Varenus's* Geography, and *Gregory's* Astronomy

IV The study of *chronology* and *history* seems to be one of the most natural delights of the human mind It is not easy to live without inquiring by what means every thing was brought into the state in which we now behold it, or without finding in the mind some desire of being informed concerning the generations of mankind that have been in possession of the world before us, whether they were better or worse than ourselves, or what good or evil has been derived to us from their schemes, practices, and institutions These are inquiries which *history* alone can satisfy, and *history* can only be made intelligible by some knowledge of *chronology*, the science by which events are ranged in their order, and the periods of computation are settled and which therefore assists the memory by method, and enlightens the judgment by showing the

the dependence of one transaction on another. Accordingly it should be diligently inculcated to the scholar, that unless he fixes in his mind some idea of the time in which each man of eminence lived, and each action was performed, with some part of the contemporary history of the rest of the world, he will consume his life in useless reading, and darken his mind with a crowd of unconnected events, his memory will be perplexed with distant transactions resembling one another, and his reflections be like a dream in a fever, busy and turbulent, but confused and indistinct.

The technical part of chronology, or the art of computing and adjusting time, as it is very difficult, so it is not of absolute necessity, but should however be taught, so far as it can be learned without the loss of those hours which are required for attainments of nearer concern. The student may join with this treatise *Le Clerc's Compendium of History*; and afterwards may, for the historical part of *chronology*, procure *Helvicus's* and *Isaacson's* Tables, and, if he is desirous of attaining the technical part, may first peruse *Holder's Account of Time*, *Hearne's Ductor Historicus*, *Strauchius*, the first part of *Petavius's Rationarium Temporum*; and at length *Scaliger de Emendatione Temporum*. And for instruction in the method of his historical studies, he may consult *Hearne's Ductor Historicus*, *Wheare's Lectures*, *Rawlinson's Directions for the Study of History*, and for ecclesiastical history, *Cave* and *Dupin*, *Baronius* and *Fleury*.

V. *Rhetorick* and *poetry* supply life with its highest

highest intellectual pleasures and in the hands of virtue are of great use for the impression of just sentiments, and recommendation of illustrious examples. In the practice of these great arts, so much more is the effect of nature than the effect of education that nothing is attempted here but to teach the mind some general heads of observation, to which the beautiful passages of the best writers may commonly be reduced. In the use of this it is not proper that the teacher should confine himself to the examples before him for by that method he will never enable his pupils to make just application of the rules, but having inculcated the true meaning of each figure, he should require them to exemplify it by their own observations, pointing to them the poem, or in longer works, the book or canto in which an example may be found, and leaving them to discover the particular passage by the light of the rules which they have lately learned.

For a farther progress in these studies, they may consult *Quintilian* and *Possius's* Rhetorick, the art of poetry will be best learned from *Bossu* and *Bohours* in *French* together with *Dryden's* Essays and Prefaces the critical Papers of *Addison* *Spence* on *Pope's* *Odyssey*, and *Trapp's* *Prælectiones Poeticæ*, but a more accurate and philosophical account is expected from a commentary upon *Aristotle's* Art of Poetry, with which the literature of this nation will be in a short time augmented.

VI With regard to the practice of *drawing*, it is not necessary to give any directions the use of the treatise being only to teach the proper method of

of imitating the figures which are annexed. It will be proper to incite the scholars to industry, by showing in other books the use of the art, and informing them how much it assists the apprehension, and relieves the memory, and if they are obliged sometimes to *write* descriptions of engines, utensils, or any complex pieces of workmanship, they will more fully apprehend the necessity of an expedient which so happily supplies the defects of language, and enables the eye to conceive what cannot be conveyed to the mind any other way. When they have read this treatise, and practised upon these figures, then theory may be improved by the *Jesuit's Perspective*, and then manual operations by other figures which may be easily procured.

VII. *Logick*, or the art of arranging and connecting ideas, of forming and examining arguments, is universally allowed to be an attainment in the utmost degree worthy the ambition of that being whose highest honour is to be endued with reason, but it is doubted whether that ambition has yet been gratified, and whether the powers of ratiocination have been much improved by any systems of art, or methodical institutions. The *logick* which for so many ages kept possession of the schools, has at last been condemned as a mere art of wrangling, of very little use in the pursuit of truth; and later writers have contented themselves with giving an account of the operations of the mind, marking the various stages of her progress, and giving some general rules for the regulation of her conduct. The method of these writers is here followed,  
but

but without a servile adherence to any, and with endeavours to make improvement, upon all This work, however labourous, has yet been fruitless, if there be truth in an observation very frequently made, that logicians out of the school do not reason better than men unassisted by those lights which their science is supposed to bestow It is not to be doubted but that logicians may be sometimes overborn by their passions, or blinded by their prejudices, and that a man may reason ill, as he may act ill, not because he does not know what is right, but because he does not regard it, yet it is not more the fault of his art that it does not direct him when his attention is withdrawn from it, than it is the defect of his sight that he misses his way when he shuts his eyes Against this cause of error there is no provision to be made, otherwise than by inculcating the value of truth, and the necessity of conquering the passions But *logick* may likewise fail to produce its effects upon common occasions for want of being frequently and familiarly applied, till its precepts may direct the mind imperceptibly as the fingers of a musician are regulated by his knowledge of the tune This readiness of recollection is only to be procured by frequent impression, and therefore it will be proper, when *logick* has been once learned, the teacher take frequent occasion in the most easy and familiar conversation, to observe when its rules are preserved, and when they are broken and that afterwards he read no authors without exacting of his pupil an account of every remarkable exemplification, or breach of the laws of reasoning

When this system has been digested, if it be thought necessary to proceed farther in the study of method, it will be proper to recommend *Crousaz*, *Watts*, *Le Clerc*, *Wolffius*, and *Locke's Essay on Human Understanding*, and if there be imagined any necessity of adding the peripatetick logic, which has been, perhaps, condemned without a candid trial, it will be convenient to proceed to *Sanderson*, *Wallis*, *Crackanthorp*, and *Aristotle*.

VIII To excite a curiosity after the works of God, is the chief design of the small specimen of *natural history* inserted in this collection; which, however, may be sufficient to put the mind in motion, and in some measure to direct its steps, but its effects may easily be improved by a philosophick master, who will every day find a thousand opportunities of turning the attention of his scholars to the contemplation of the objects that surround them, of laying open the wonderful art with which every part of the universe is formed, and the providence which governs the vegetable and animal creation. He may lay before them the *Religious Philosopher*, *Ray*, *Derham's Physico-Theology*, together with the *Spectacle de la Nature*, and in time recommend to their perusal *Rondoleti* and *Aldrovandus*.

IX. But how much soever the reason may be strengthened by *logic*, or the conceptions of the mind enlarged by the study of nature, it is necessary the man be not suffered to dwell upon them so long as to neglect the study of himself, the knowledge of his own station in the ranks of being, and  
his

his various relations to the innumerable multitudes which surround him, and with which his Maker has ordained him to be united for the reception and communication of happiness. To consider these rights is of the greatest importance since from these arise duties which he cannot neglect. *It thus, or morality* therefore is one of the studies which ought to begin with the first glimpse of reason and only end with life itself. Other acquisitions are merely temporary benefits except as they contribute to illustrate the knowledge, and confirm the practice of morality and piety which extend their influence beyond the grave and increase our happiness through endless duration.

This great science therefore must be inculcated with care and assiduity such as its importance ought to incite in reasonable minds, and for the prosecution of this design fit opportunities are always at hand. As the importance of *logic* is to be shown by detecting false arguments the excellence of morality is to be displayed by proving the deformity, the reproach, and the misery of all deviations from it. Yet it is to be remembered, that the laws of mere morality are no coercive power and, however they may by conviction of their fitness please the reasoner in the shade, when the passions stagnate without impulse and the appetites are secluded from their objects, they will be of little force against the ardour of desire, or the vehemence of rage, amidst the pleasures and tumults of the world. To counteract the power of temptations hope must be excited by the prospect of rewards and fear by the expectation of punishment and

## 308 PREFACE TO THE PRECEPTOR

virtue may owe her panegyrics to morality, but must derive her authority from religion

When therefore the obligations of morality are taught, let the sanctions of christianity never be forgotten; by which it will be shown, that they give strength and lustre to each other; religion will appear to be the voice of reason, and morality the will of God Under this article must be recommended *Tully's Offices*, *Grotius*, *Puffendorf*, *Cumberland's Laws of Nature*, and the excellent Mr. *Addison's Moral and Religious Essays*.

X Thus far the work is composed for the use of scholars, merely as they are men But it was thought necessary to introduce something that might be particularly adapted to that country for which it is designed; and therefore a discourse has been added upon *trade and commerce*, of which it becomes every man of this nation to understand at least the general principles, as it is impossible that any should be high or low enough not to be in some degree affected by their declension or prosperity. It is therefore necessary that it should be universally known among us, what changes of property are advantageous, or when the balance of trade is on our side; what are the products or manufactures of other countries, and how far one nation may in any species of traffick obtain or preserve superiority over another. The theory of trade is yet but little understood, and therefore the practice is often without real advantage to the publick, but it might be carried on with more general success, if its principles were better considered. and to excite that attention is our chief design. To the perusal of this

book may succeed that of *Mun upon Foreign Trade*, Sir *Josiah Child*, *Locke upon Coin*, *Davenant's Treatises*, the *British Merchant*, *Dictionnaire de Commerce*, and, for an abstract or compendium, *Gee*, and an improvement that may hereafter be made upon his plan

XI The principles of *laws and government* come next to be considered, by which men are taught to whom obedience is due, for what it is paid, and in what degree it may be justly required This knowledge, by peculiar necessity, constitutes a part of the education of an *Englishman*, who professes to obey his prince according to the law, and who is himself a secondary legislator, as he gives his consent, by his representative, to all the laws by which he is bound, and has a right to petition the great council of the nation, whenever he thinks they are deliberating upon an act detrimental to the interest of the community This is therefore a subject to which the thoughts of a young man ought to be directed and that he may obtain such knowledge as may qualify him to act and judge as one of a free people let him be directed to add to this introduction *Fortescue's Treatises*, *N Bacon's Historical Discourse on the Laws and Government of England* *Temple's Introduction*, *Locke on Government*, *Zouch's Elementa Juris Civilis*, *Plato Redivivus* *Gurdon's History of Parliaments* and *Hooker's Ecclesiastical Polity*

XII Having thus supplied the young student with knowledge, it remains now that he learns its application, and that thus qualified to act his part, he be at last taught to choose it For this purpose a

section is added upon *human life* and *manners*, in which he is cautioned against the danger of indulging his *passions*, of vitiating his *habits*, and depraving his *sentiments*. He is instructed in these points by three fables, two of which were of the highest authority in the ancient *Pagan* world. But at this he is not to rest, for if he expects to be wise and happy, he must diligently study the *SCRIPTURES* of *GOD*.

Such is the book now proposed, as the first initiation into the knowledge of things, which has been thought by many to be too long delayed in the present forms of education. Whether the complaints be not often ill-grounded, may perhaps be disputed; but it is at least reasonable to believe, that greater proficiency might sometimes be made; that real knowledge might be more early communicated, and that children might be allowed, without injury to health, to spend many of those hours upon useful employments, which are generally lost in idleness and play, therefore the publick will surely encourage an experiment, by which, if it fail, nobody is hurt, and if it succeeds, all the future ages of the world may find advantage, which may eradicate or prevent vice, by turning to a better use those moments in which it is learned or indulged, and in some sense lengthen life, by teaching posterity to enjoy those years which have hitherto been lost. The success, and even the trial of this experiment, will depend upon those to whom the care of our youth is committed, and a due sense of the importance of their trust will easily prevail upon them to encourage a work which pursues the design  
of

of improving education. If any part of the following performance shall upon trial be found capable of amendment, if any thing can be added or altered, so as to render the attainment of knowledge more easy, the Editor will be extremely obliged to any gentleman, particularly those who are engaged in the business of teaching, for such hints or observations as may tend towards the improvement of this book, and will spare neither expense nor trouble in making the best use of their information.

PREFACE  
TO  
ROLT'S DICTIONARY\*.

**N**O expectation is more fallacious than that which authors form of the reception which their labours will find among mankind. Scarcely any man publishes a book, whatever it be, without believing that he has caught the moment when the publick attention is vacant to his call, and the world is disposed in a particular manner to learn the art which he undertakes to teach.

The writers of this volume are not so far exempt from epidemical prejudices, but that they likewise please themselves with imagining, that they have reserved their labours to a propitious conjuncture, and that this is the proper time for the publication of a Dictionary of Commerce.

The predictions of an author are very far from infallibility, but in justification of some degree of confidence it may be properly observed, that there was never from the earliest ages a time in which trade so much engaged the attention of mankind, or commercial gain was sought with such general emulation. Nations which have hitherto cultivated no art but that of war, nor conceived any means of increasing riches but by plunder, are awakened to

\* A new Dictionary of Trade and Commerce, compiled from the Information of the most eminent Merchants, and from the Works of the best Writers on Commercial Subjects in all Languages, by Mr. Rolt. Folio, 1757.

more inoffensive industry Those whom the possession of subterraneous treasures, have long disposed to accommodate themselves by foreign industry, are at last convinced that idleness never will be rich The merchant is now invited to every port, manufactures are established in all cities, and princes who just can view the sea from some single corner of their dominions are enlarging harbours, erecting mercantile companies, and preparing to traffick in the remotest countries

Nor is the form of this work less popular than the subject It has lately been the practice of the learned to range knowledge by the alphabet, and publish dictionaries of every kind of literature This practice has perhaps been carried too far by the force of fashion Sciences in themselves systematical and coherent are not very properly broken into such fortuitous distributions A dictionary of arithmetick or geometry can serve only to confound but commerce, considered in its whole extent seems to refuse any other method of arrangement, as it comprises innumerable particulars unconnected with each other, among which there is no reason why any should be first or last better than is furnished by the letters that compose their names

We cannot indeed boast ourselves the inventors of a scheme so commodious and comprehensive The *French*, among innumerable projects for the promotion of traffick, have taken care to supply their merchants with a *Dictionnaire de Commerce*, collected with great industry and exactness but too large for common use, and adapted to their own trade This book, as well as others, has been care  
fully

fully consulted, that our merchants may not be ignorant of any thing known by their enemies or rivals.

Such, indeed, is the extent of our undertaking, that it was necessary to solicit every information, to consult the living and the dead. The great qualification of him that attempts a work thus general, is diligence of inquiry. No man has opportunity or ability to acquaint himself with all the subjects of a commercial dictionary, so as to describe from his own knowledge, or assert on his own experience. He must therefore often depend upon the veracity of others, as every man depends in common life, and have no other skill to boast than that of selecting judiciously, and arranging properly.

But to him who considers the extent of our subject, limited only by the bounds of nature and of art, the task of selection and method will appear sufficient to overburden industry and distract attention. Many branches of commerce are subdivided into smaller and smaller parts, till at last they become so minute as not easily to be noted by observation. Many interests are so woven among each other as not to be disentangled without long inquiry; many arts are industriously kept secret, and many practices necessary to be known, are carried on in parts too remote for intelligence.

But the knowledge of trade is of so much importance to a maritime nation, that no labour can be thought great by which information may be obtained, and therefore we hope the reader will not have reason to complain, that, of what he might justly expect to find, any thing is omitted.

To

To give a detail or analysis of our work is very difficult, a volume intended to contain whatever is requisite to be known by every trade, necessarily becomes so much collaneous and unconnected as not to be easily reducible to heads, yet since we pretend in some measure to treat it of traffick a science, and to make that regular and systematical which has hitherto been to a great degree fortuitous and conjectural and has often succeeded by chance rather than by conduct, it will be proper to show that a distribution of parts has been attempted which, though rude and inadequate will at least preserve some order, and enable the mind to take a methodical and successive view of this design

In the dictionary which we here offer to the publick we propose to exhibit the *materials*, the *places*, and the *means* of traffick

The materials or subjects of traffick are *whatever is bought and sold*, and include therefore every manufacture of art and almost every production of nature

In giving an account of the commodities of nature, whether those which are to be used in their original state as drugs and spices, or those which become useful when they receive a new form from human art, as flax cotton, and metals, we shall show the places of their production the manner in which they grow the art of cultivating or collecting them, their discriminations and varieties, by which the best sorts are known from the worse, and genuine from fictitious the arts by which they are counterfeited, the casualties by which they are impaired and the practices by which the damage is palliated or concealed We shall likewise show their virtues  
and

and uses, and trace them through all the changes which they undergo.

The history of manufactures is likewise delivered. Of every artificial commodity the manner in which it is made is in some measure described, though it must be remembered, that manual operations are scarce to be conveyed by any words to him that has not seen them. Some general notions may however be afforded. It is easy to comprehend, that plates of iron are formed by the pressure of rollers, and bars by the strokes of a hammer; that a cannon is cast, and that an anvil is forged. But as it is to most traders of more use to know when their goods are well wrought, than by what means, care has been taken to name the places where every manufacture has been carried furthest, and the marks by which its excellency may be ascertained.

By the *places of trade* are understood all ports, cities, or towns, where staples are established, manufactures are wrought, or any commodities are bought and sold advantageously. This part of our work includes an enumeration of almost all the remarkable places in the world, with such an account of their situation, customs, and products, as the merchant would require, who being to begin a new trade in any foreign country, was yet ignorant of the commodities of the place, and the manners of the inhabitants.

But the chief attention of the merchant, and consequently of the author who writes for merchants, ought to be employed upon the *means* of trade, which include all the knowledge and practice necessary to the skilful and successful conduct of commerce.

The

The first of the means of trade is proper education, which may confer a competent skill in numbers to be afterwards completed in the counting house by observation of the manner of stating accounts and regulating books, which is one of the few arts which having been studied in proportion to its importance, is carried as far as use can require. The counting-house of an accomplished merchant is a school of method, where the great science may be learned of ranging particulars under generals, of bringing the different parts of a transaction together, and of showing at one view a long series of dealing and exchange. Let no man venture into large business while he is ignorant of the method of regulating books, never let him imagine that any degree of natural abilities will enable him to supply this deficiency, or preserve multiplicity of affairs from inextricable confusion.

This is the study, without which all other studies will be of little avail, but this alone is not sufficient. It will be necessary to learn many other things which however may be easily included in the preparatory institutions such as an exact knowledge of the *weights and measures* of different countries, and some skill in geography and navigation, with which this book may perhaps sufficiently supply him.

In navigation considered as part of the skill of a merchant, is included not so much the art of steering a ship, as the knowledge of the sea coast, and of the different parts to which his cargoes are sent, the customs to be paid, the passes permissions or certificates to be procured, the hazards of every voyage, and the true rate of insurances. To this must be added, an acquaintance with the poli-  
cies

cies and arts of other nations, as well those to whom the commodities are sold, as of those who carry goods of the same kind to the same market, and who are therefore to be watched as rivals endeavouring to take advantage of every error, miscarriage, or debate

The chief of the *means* of trade is *money*, of which our late refinements in traffick have made the knowledge extremely difficult. The merchant must not only inform himself of the various denominations and value of foreign coins, together with their method of counting and reducing; such as the *milleues* of *Portugal* and the *livres* of *France*, but he must learn what is of more difficult attainment, the discount of exchanges, the nature of current paper, the principles upon which the several banks of *Europe* are established, the real value of funds, the true credit of trading companies, with all the sources of profit, and possibilities of loss

- All this he must learn merely as a private dealer, attentive only to his own advantage, but as every man ought to consider himself as part of the community to which he belongs, and while he prosecutes his own interest to promote likewise that of his country, it is necessary for the trader to look abroad upon mankind, and study many questions which are perhaps more properly political than mercantile

He ought therefore to consider very accurately the balance of trade, or the proportion between things exported and imported, to examine what kinds of commerce are unlawful, either as being expressly prohibited, because detrimental to the manufactures or other interest of his country, as the exportation of silver to the *East Indies*, and the  
introduction

introduction of *French* commodities, or unlawful in itself, as the traffick for negroes. He ought to be able to state with accuracy, the benefits and mischiefs of monopolies, and exclusive companies, to inquire into the arts which have been practised by them to make themselves necessary, or by their opponents to make them odious. He should inform himself what trades are declining, and what are improvable when the advantage is on our side, and when on that of our rivals.

The state of our *colonies* is always to be diligently surveyed, that no advantage may be lost which they can afford, and that every opportunity may be improved of increasing their wealth and power, or of making them useful to their mother country.

There is no knowledge of more frequent use than that of duties and impost, whether customs paid at the ports or excises levied upon the manufacturer. Much of the prosperity of a trading nation depends upon duties properly apportioned, so that what is necessary may continue cheap and what is of use only to luxury may in some measure atone to the publick for the mischief done to individuals. Duties may often be so regulated as to become useful even to those that pay them, and they may be likewise so unequally imposed as to discourage honesty, and depress industry, and give temptation to fraud and unlawful practices.

To teach all this is the design of the Commercial Dictionary, which, though immediately and primarily written for the merchants, will be of use to every man of business or curiosity. There is no man who is not in some degree a merchant, who has not something

something to buy and something to sell, and who does not therefore want such instructions as may teach him the true value of possessions or commodities

The descriptions of the productions of the earth and water, which this volume will contain, may be equally pleasing and useful to the speculatist with any other natural history, and the accounts of various manufactures will constitute no contemptible body of experimental philosophy. The descriptions of ports and cities may instruct the geographer as well as if they were found in books appropriated only to his own science; and the doctrines of funds, insurances, currency, monopolies, exchanges, and duties, is so necessary to the politician, that without it he can be of no use either in the council or the senate, nor can speak or think justly either on war or trade

We therefore hope that we shall not repent the labour of compiling this work; nor flatter ourselves unreasonably, in predicting a favourable reception to a book which no condition of life can render useless, which may contribute to the advantage of all that make or receive laws, of all that buy or sell, of all that wish to keep or improve their possessions, of all that desire to be rich, and all that desire to be wise \*

\* Of this preface, Mr *Boswell* informs us that Dr *Johnson* said he never saw *Rolt*, and never read the book "The Book-sellers wanted a preface to a Dictionary of Trade and Commerce. I knew very well what such a Dictionary should be, and I wrote a preface accordingly" This may be believed, but the book is a most wretched farrago of articles plundered without acknowledgment, or judgment, which, indeed, was the case with most of *Rolt's* compilations. C.

PREFACE TO THE TRANSLATION  
OF  
FATHER LOBO'S VOYAGE  
TO ABYSSINIA\*

THE following relation is so curious and entertaining and the dissertations that accompany it so judicious and instructive, that the translator is confident his attempt stands in need of no apology, whatever censures may fall on the performance

The *Portuguese* traveller contrary to the general vein of his countrymen, has amused his reader with no romantick absurdities or incredible fictions whatever he relates, whether true or not, is at least probable, and he who tells nothing exceeding the bounds of probability, has a right to demand that they should believe him who cannot contradict him

He appears by his modest and unassuming narration to have described things as he saw them, to have copied nature from the life and to have consulted his senses not his imagination He meets with no basilisks that destroy with their eyes, his crocodiles devour their prey without tears, and his cataracts fall from the rock without deafening the neighbouring inhabitants

\* For an account of this book see the Life of Dr Johnson prefixed to this Edition

## 322 PREFACE TO THE TRANSLATION

The reader will here find no regions cursed with unremediable barrenness or blest with spontaneous fecundity, no perpetual gloom or unceasing sunshine, nor are the nations here described either devoid of all sense of humanity, or consummate in all private and social virtues. here are no *Hottentots* without religion, polity, or articulate language, no *Chinese* perfectly polite, and completely skilled in all sciences. he will discover what will always be discovered by a diligent and impartial inquirer, that wherever human nature is to be found, there is a mixture of vice and virtue, a contest of passion and reason, and that the Creator doth not appear partial in his distributions, but has balanced in most countries their particular inconveniencies by particular favours.

In his account of the mission, where his veracity is most to be suspected, he neither exaggerates overmuch the merits of the Jesuits, if we consider the partial regard paid by the *Portuguese* to their countrymen, by the Jesuits to their society, and by the papists to their church, nor aggravates the vices of the *Abyssinians*, but if the reader will not be satisfied with a popish account of a popish mission, he may have recourse to the History of the Church of *Abyssinia*, written by Dr *Geddes*, in which he will find the actions and sufferings of the missionaries placed in a different light, though the same in which Mr *Le Grand*, with all his zeal for the *Roman* church, appears to have seen them.

This learned dissertator, however valuable for his industry and erudition, is yet more to be esteemed for having dared so freely in the midst of *France*,

to declare his disapprobation of the patriarch *Oviedo* s sanguinary zeal, who was continually importuning the *Portuguese* to beat up their drums for missionaries who might preach the gospel with swords in their hands and propagate by desolation and slaughter the true worship of the God of peace

It is not easy to forbear reflecting with how little reason these men profess themselves the followers of JESUS, who left this great characteristick to his disciples that they should be known *by loving one another*, by universal and unbounded charity and benevolence

Let us suppose an inhabitant of some remote and superiour region yet unskilled in the ways of men, having read and considered the precepts of the gospel and the example of our Saviour, to come down in search of the *true church*, if he would not inquire after it among the cruel the insolent, and the oppressive among those who are continually grasping at dominion over souls as well as bodies, among those who are employed in procuring to themselves impunity for the most enormous villanies and studying methods of destroying their fellow-creatures, not for their crimes but their errors, if he would not expect to meet benevolence engaged in massacres or to find mercy in a court of inquisition—he would not look for the *true church* in the church of *Rome*

Mr *Le Grand* has given in one dissertation an example of great moderation, in deviating from the temper of his religion, but in the others has left proofs, that learning and honesty are often too weak to oppose prejudice. He has made no scruple

of preferring the testimony of father *Du Bernat* to the writings of all the *Portuguese* Jesuits, to whom he allows great zeal, but little learning, without giving any other reason than that his favourite was a *Frenchman*. This is writing only to *Frenchmen* and to papists: a protestant would be desirous to know, why he must imagine that father *Du Bernat* had a cooler head or more knowledge, and why one man, whose account is singular, is not more likely to be mistaken than many agreeing in the same account.

If the *Portuguese* were biased by any particular views, another bias equally powerful may have deflected the *Frenchman* from the truth, for they evidently write with contrary designs: the *Portuguese*, to make their mission seem more necessary, endeavoured to place in the strongest light the differences between the *Abyssinian* and *Roman* church, but the great *Ludolfus*, laying hold on the advantage, reduced these later writers to prove their conformity.

Upon the whole the controversy seems of no great importance to those who believe the Holy Scriptures sufficient to teach the way of salvation, but, of whatever moment it may be thought, there are no proofs sufficient to decide it.

His discourses on indifferent subjects will divert as well as instruct, and if either in these, or in the relation of father *Lobo*, any argument shall appear unconvincing; or description obscure, they are defects incident to all mankind, which however are not too rashly to be imputed to the authors, being sometimes perhaps more justly chargeable on the translator.

In this translation (if it may be so called) great liberties have been taken, which, whether justifiable or not, shall be fully confessed, and let the judicious part of mankind pardon or condemn them.

In the first part the greatest freedom has been used, in reducing the narration into a narrow compass, so that it is by no means a translation, but an epitome in which, whether every thing either useful or entertaining be compressed, the compiler is least qualified to determine.

In the account of *Ibyssinia* and the continuation, the authors have been followed with more exactness, and as few passages appeared either insignificant or tedious, few have been either shortened or omitted.

The dissertations are the only part in which an exact translation has been attempted, and even in those, abstracts are sometimes given instead of literal quotations particularly in the first and sometimes other parts have been contracted.

Several memoirs and letters, which are printed at the end of the dissertations, to secure the credit of the foregoing narrative, are entirely left out.

It is hoped that after this confession, whoever shall compare this attempt with the original if he shall find no proofs of fraud or partiality, will candidly overlook any failure of judgment.

AN  
ESSAY  
ON  
EPI'TAPHS\*.

ALTHOUGH criticism has been cultivated in every age of learning, by men of great abilities and extensive knowledge, till the rules of writing are become rather burdensome than instructive to the mind, though almost every species of composition has been the subject of particular treatises, and given birth to definitions, distinctions, precepts, and illustrations, yet no critick of note, that has fallen within my observation, has hitherto thought *sepulchral inscriptions* worthy of a minute examination, or pointed out with proper accuracy their beauties and defects

The reasons of this neglect it is useless to inquire, and perhaps impossible to discover, it might be justly expected that this kind of writing would have been the favourite topick of criticism, and that self-love might have produced some regard for it, in those authors that have crowded libraries with elaborate dissertations upon *Homer*; since to afford a subject for heroick poems is the privilege of very few, but every man may expect to be recorded in an epitaph, and therefore finds some interest in pro-

\* This was one of the numerous small pieces Dr *Johnson* wrote for the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and appeared there in 1740

viding that his memory may not suffer by an unskilful panegyrick

If our prejudices in favour of antiquity deserve to have any part in the regulation of our studies, EPITAPHS seem entitled to more than common regard, as they are probably of the same age with the art of writing. The most ancient structures in the world, the Pyramids are supposed to be sepulchral monuments, which either pride or gratitude erected, and the same passions which incited men to such laborious and expensive methods of preserving their own memory, or that of their benefactors, would doubtless incline them not to neglect any expedient means by which the same ends might be obtained. Nature and reason have dictated to every nation, that to preserve good actions from oblivion is both the interest and duty of mankind and therefore we find no people acquainted with the use of letters, that omitted to grace the tombs of their heroes and wise men with panegyrical inscriptions

To examine, therefore, in what the perfection of EPITAPHS consists, and what rules are to be observed in composing them, will be at least of as much use as other critical inquiries, and for assigning a few hours to such disquisitions great examples at least, if not strong reasons, may be pleaded

An EPITAPH, as the word itself implies, is an *inscription on the tomb* and in its most extensive import may admit indiscriminately satire or praise. But as malice has seldom produced monuments of defamation, and the tombs hitherto raised have been the work of friendship and benevolence, custom has contracted the original latitude of the word, so that

it signifies in the general acceptation an *inscription engraven on a tomb in honour of the person deceased*

As honours are paid to the dead in order to incite others to the imitation of their excellencies, the principal intention of EPITAPIIS is to perpetuate the examples of virtue, that the tomb of a good man may supply the want of his presence, and veneration for his memory produce the same effect as the observation of his life. Those EPITAPIIS are therefore the most perfect, which set virtue in the strongest light, and are best adapted to exalt the reader's ideas and rouse his emulation.

To this end it is not always necessary to recount the actions of a hero, or enumerate the writings of a philosopher, to imagine such informations necessary, is to detract from their characters, or to suppose their works mortal, or their achievements in danger of being forgotten. The bare name of such men answers every purpose of a long inscription.

Had only the name of SIR ISAAC NEWTON been subjoined to the design upon his monument, instead of a long detail of his discoveries, which no philosopher can want, and which none but a philosopher can understand, those, by whose direction it was raised, had done more honour both to him and to themselves.

This indeed is a commendation which it requires no genius to bestow, but which can never become vulgar or contemptible, if bestowed with judgment, because no single age produces many men of merit superiour to panegyrick. None but the first names can stand unassisted against the attacks  
of

of time, and if men raised to reputation by accident or caprice have nothing but their names engraved on their tombs there is danger lest in a few years the inscription require an interpreter Thus have their expectations been disappointed who honoured *Picus of Miranda* with this pompous epitaph

*Hic situs est PICUS MIRANDA, cetera nount  
Et Tagus et Ganges forsas et Antipodes*

His name, then celebrated in the remotest corners of the earth, is now almost forgotten, and his works, then studied admired and applauded, are now mouldering in obscurity

Next in dignity to the bare name is a short character simple and unadorned, without exaggeration superlatives, or rhetoric Such were the inscriptions in use among the *Romans*, in which the victories gained by their emperours were commemorated by a single epithet as *Cæsar Germanicus*, *Cæsar Dacicus*, *Germanicus Illyricus* Such would be this epitaph, *ISAACUS NEWTONUS, naturæ legibus investigatis hic quiescit*

But to far the greatest part of mankind a longer encomium is necessary for the publication of their virtues and the preservation of their memories and in the composition of these it is that art is principally required and precepts therefore may be useful

In writing EPITAPHS one circumstance is to be considered which affects no other composition the place in which they are now commonly found restrains them to a particular air of solemnity, and debars

debars them from the admission of all lighter or gayer ornaments. In this it is that the style of an EPITAPH necessarily differs from that of an ELLY. The custom of burying our dead either in or near our churches, perhaps originally founded on a rational design of fitting the mind for religious exercises, by laying before it the most affecting proof of the uncertainty of life, makes it proper to exclude from our EPITAPHS all such allusions as are contrary to the doctrines for the propagation of which the churches are erected, and to the end for which those who peruse the monuments must be supposed to come thither. Nothing is, therefore, more ridiculous than to copy the *Roman* inscriptions, which were engraven on stones by the high way, and composed by those who generally reflected on mortality only to excite in themselves and others a quicker relish of pleasure, and a more luxurious enjoyment of life, and whose regard for the dead extended no farther than a wish that *the earth might lie light upon them*.

All allusions to the heathen mythology are therefore absurd, and all regard for the senseless remains of a dead man impertinent and superstitious. One of the first distinctions of the primitive christians, was then neglect of bestowing garlands on the dead, in which they are very rationally defended by their apologist in *Minutius Felix*. "We lavish no flowers nor odours on the dead," says he, "because they have no sense of fragrance or of beauty." We profess to reverence the dead, not for their sake, but for our own. It is therefore always with indignation or contempt that I read the epitaph on  
*Cowley,*

Cowley, a man, whose learning and poetry were his lowest merits

*Aurea dum late volitant tua scripta per orbem,  
 Lt fama eternum vivis, divine Poeta,  
 Hic placida jaceas requie, custodiat urnam  
 Cana Idæa vigilentque perenni lampade Musæ!  
 Sit sacer ille locus, nec quis temerarius ausit  
 Sacrilega turbare manu venerabile bustum  
 Intacti mancant muneant per cœula dulces  
 COWLEY cineres, serrentque immobile saxum*

To pray that the ashes of a friend may lie undisturbed, and that the divinities that favoured him in his life may watch for ever round him to preserve his tomb from violation, and drive sacrilege away is only rational in him who believes the soul interested in the repose of the body, and the powers which he invokes for its protection able to preserve it. To censure such expressions as contrary to religion or as remains of heathen superstition, would be too great a degree of severity. I condemn them only as un instructive and un affecting as too ludicrous for reverence or grief, for christianity and a temple.

That the designs and decorations of monuments ought likewise to be formed with the same regard to the solemnity of the place, cannot be denied. It is an established principle, that all ornaments owe their beauty to their propriety. The same glitter of dress that adds graces to gayety and youth, would make age and dignity contemptible. Charon, with his boat, is far from heightening the awful grandeur of the universal judgment, though drawn by

by *Angelo* himself, nor is it easy to imagine a greater absurdity than that of gracing the walls of a christian temple with the figure of *Mars* leading a hero to battle, or *Cupid* sporting round a virgin. The pope who defaced the statues of the deities at the tomb of *Sannazarus*, is, in my opinion, more easily to be defended, than he that erected them.

It is for the same reason improper to address the EPITAPH to the passenger, a custom which an injudicious veneration for antiquity introduced again at the revival of letters, and which, among many others, *Passeratius* suffered to mislead him in his EPITAPH upon the heart of *Henry* king of *France*, who was stabbed by *Clement* the monk, which yet deserves to be inserted, for the sake of showing how beautiful even improprieties may become, in the hands of a good writer.

*Adlatratator, et doli regum tuus  
Cor Regis isto conditum sub marmore,  
Qui jura Gallis, jura Sarmetis dedit  
Tectus cucullo hunc sustulit scarius  
Abi, viator, et doli regum tuus*

In the monkish ages, however ignorant and unpolished, the EPITAPHS were drawn up with far greater propriety than can be shown in those which more enlightened times have produced.

*Orate pro Anima miserum Peccatoris,*

was an address to the last degree striking and solemn, as it flowed naturally from the religion then believed, and awakened in the reader sentiments of benevolence for the deceased, and of concern for his

his own happiness. There was nothing trifling or ludicrous, nothing that did not tend to the noblest end, the propagation of piety, and the increase of devotion.

It may seem very superfluous to lay it down as the first rule for writing EPITAPHIS that the name of the deceased is not to be omitted: nor should I have thought such a precept necessary, had not the practice of the greatest writers shown, that it has not been sufficiently regarded. In most of the poetical EPITAPHIS the names for whom they were composed, may be sought to no purpose, being only pressed on the monument. To expose the absurdity of this omission, it is only necessary to ask how the EPITAPHIS, which have outlived the stones on which they were inscribed would have contributed to the information of posterity, had they wanted the names of those whom they celebrated.

In drawing the character of the deceased, there are no rules to be observed which do not equally relate to other compositions. The praise ought not to be general because the mind is lost in the extent of any indefinite idea, and cannot be affected with what it cannot comprehend. When we hear only of a good or great man, we know not in what class to place him, nor have any notion of his character, distinct from that of a thousand others. His example can have no effect upon our conduct, as we have nothing remarkable or eminent to propose to our imitation. The EPITAPH composed by *Ennius* for his own tomb has both the faults last mentioned.

*Nemo me decoret lacrimis, nec funera, flitu*

*Favit Cui<sup>2</sup> volito vivu' per oia vivum.*

The reader of this EPITAPH receives scarce any idea from it, he neither conceives any veneration for the man to whom it belongs, nor is instructed by what methods this boasted reputation is to be obtained.

Though a sepulchral inscription is professedly a panegyrick, and, therefore, not confined to historical impartiality, yet it ought always to be written with regard to truth. No man ought to be commended for virtues which he never possessed, but whoever is curious to know his faults must inquire after them in other places, the monuments of the dead are not intended to perpetuate the memory of crimes, but to exhibit patterns of virtue. On the tomb of *Mæcenas* his luxury is not to be mentioned with his munificence, nor is the proscription to find a place on the monument of *Augustus*.

The best subject for EPITAPHS is private virtue; virtue exerted in the same circumstances in which the bulk of mankind are placed, and which, therefore, may admit of many imitators. He that has delivered his country from oppression, or freed the world from ignorance and error, can excite the emulation of a very small number, but he that has repelled the temptations of poverty, and disdained to free himself from distress at the expense of his virtue, may animate multitudes, by his example, to the same firmness of heart and steadiness of resolution.

Of this kind I cannot forbear the mention of two *Greek* inscriptions, one upon a man whose writings

writings are well known, the other upon a person whose memory is preserved only in her EPITAPH, who both lived in slavery the most calamitous estate in human life.

Ζαῖ μὴ ἡ τῆς ἐστὶ μὲν τῷ σώματι δ' ἔτι  
καὶ τῷ σώματι νῦν εὐρί/ελευθερία

*ZOSIMA quæ solo fuit olim corpore s r-a,*  
*Corpore nunc etiam libera facta fuit*

“ ZOSIMA who in her life could only have her body enslaved, now finds her body likewise at liberty

It is impossible to read this EPITAPH without being animated to bear the evils of life with constancy, and to support the dignity of human nature under the most pressing afflictions both by the example of the heroine, whose grave we behold and the prospect of that state in which, to use the language of the inspired writers, “ The poor cease from their labours, and the weary be at rest ”

The other is upon *Epictetus*, the *Stoick* philosopher

Δωρ' Ἐπικτῆτος λείπονται καὶ σώλ' ἀσπῆρος ,  
καὶ πτωχὸν ἱερ' καὶ φίλον Ἀθά ατοῖς

*Servus EPICETUS, mutilatus corpore τιμῇ*  
*Pauperieque Ius cuiusque prima Deum*

“ EPICETUS, who lies here was a slave and a cripple poor as the beggar in the proverb, and the favourite of Heaven

In this distich is comprised the noblest panegyrick, and the most important instruction We may learn

learn from it, that virtue is impracticable in no condition, since *Epictetus* could recommend himself to the regard of Heaven, amidst the temptations of poverty and slavery—slavery, which has always been found so destructive to virtue, that in many languages a slave and a thief are expressed by the same word. And we may be likewise admonished by it, not to lay any stress on a man's outward circumstances, in making an estimate of his real value, since *Epictetus* the beggar, the cripple, and the slave, was the favourite of Heaven.

---

## POLITICAL ESSAYS

## OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

## STATE OF AFFAIRS IN M,DCC,LVI\*

**T**HE time is now come in which every *English man* expects to be informed of the national affairs, and in which he has a right to have that expectation gratified. For whatever may be urged by ministers, or those whom vanity or interest make the followers of ministers, concerning the necessity of confidence in our governours and the presumption of prying with profane eyes into the recesses of policy it is evident, that this reverence can be claimed only by counsels yet unexecuted, and projects suspended in deliberation. But when a design has ended in miscarriage or success, when every eye and every ear is witness to general discontent, or general satisfaction, it is then a proper time to disentangle confusion, and illustrate obscurity, to

\* Published first in the *Literary Magazine* N. IV from July 15 to August 15 1756. This periodical work was published by *Richardson* in Paternoster Row, but was discontinued about two years after. *Dr Johnson* wrote many articles which have been enumerated by *Mr Boswell* and there are others which I should be inclined to attribute to him from internal evidence. C

VOL. II

Z

show

show by what causes every event was produced, and in what effects it is likely to terminate. to lay down with distinct particularity what rumour always huddles in general exclamations, or perplexes by undigested narratives, to show whence happiness or calamity is derived, and whence it may be expected, and honestly to lay before the people what inquiry can gather of the past, and conjecture can estimate of the future

The general subject of the present war is sufficiently known. It is allowed on both sides, that hostilities began in *America*, and that the *French* and *English* quarrelled about the boundaries of their settlements, about grounds and rivers to which, I am afraid, neither can show any other right than that of power, and which neither can occupy but by usurpation, and the dispossession of the natural lords and original inhabitants. Such is the contest, that no honest man can heartily wish success to either party

It may indeed be alleged, that the *Indians* have granted large tracts of land both to one and to the other; but these grants can add little to the validity of our titles, till it be experienced how they were obtained. for if they were extorted by violence, or induced by fraud, by threats, which the miseries of other nations had shown not to be vain, or by promises of which no performance was ever intended, what are they but new modes of usurpation, but new instances of cruelty and treachery?

And indeed what but false hope or resistless terror can prevail upon a weaker nation to invite a stronger into their country, to give their lands to strangers whom

whom no affinity of manners, or similitude of opinion, can be said to recommend, to permit them to build towns from which the natives are excluded, to raise fortresses by which they are intimidated, to settle themselves with such strength, that they cannot afterwards be expelled, but are for ever to remain the masters of the original inhabitants, the dictators of their conduct, and the arbiters of their fate?

When we see men acting thus against the precepts of reason, and the instincts of nature, we cannot hesitate to determine, that by some means or other they were debarred from choice, that they were lured or frightened into compliance, that they either granted only what they found impossible to keep, or expected advantages upon the faith of their new inmates, which there was no purpose to confer upon them. It cannot be said, that the *Indians* originally invited us to their coasts, we went uncalled and unexpected to nations who had no imagination that the earth contained any inhabitants so distant and so different from themselves. We astonished them with our ships, with our arms, and with our general superiority. They yielded to us as to beings of another and higher race, sent among them from some unknown regions with power which naked *Indians* could not resist, and which they were therefore, by every act of humility, to propitiate, that they, who could so easily destroy, might be induced to spare.

To this influence, and to this only, are to be attributed all the cessions and submissions of the *Indian* princes, if indeed any such cessions were ever made, of which we have no witness but those who claim

from them, and there is no great malignity in suspecting, that those who have robbed have also lied

Some colonies indeed have been established more peaceably than others. The utmost extremity of wrong has not always been practised, but those that have settled in the new world on the fairest terms, have no other merit than that of a scrivener who runs in silence, over a plunderer that seizes by force; all have taken what had other owners, and all have had recourse to arms, rather than quit the prey on which they had fastened

The *American* dispute between the *French* and us is therefore only the quarrel of two robbers for the spoils of a passenger, but as robbers have terms of confederacy, which they are obliged to observe as members of the gang, so the *English* and *French* may have relative rights, and do injustice to each other, while both are injuring the *Indians*. And such, indeed, is the present contest. they have parted the northern continent of *America* between them, and are now disputing about their boundaries, and each is endeavouring the destruction of the other by the help of the *Indians*, whose interest it is that both should be destroyed

Both nations clamour with great vehemence about infractions of limits, violation of treaties, open usurpation, insidious artifices, and breach of faith. The *English* rail at the perfidious *French*, and the *French* at the encroaching *English*, they quote treaties on each side, charge each other with aspiring to universal monarchy, and complain on either part of the insecurity of possession near such turbulent neighbours.

Though

Through this mist of controversy it can raise no wonder that the truth is not easily discovered. When a quarrel has been long carried on between individuals, it is often very hard to tell by whom it was begun. Every fact is darkened by distance, by interest, and by multitudes. Information is not easily procured from far, those whom the truth will not favour will not step voluntarily forth to tell it, and where there are many agents, it is easy for every single action to be concealed.

All these causes concur to the obscurity of the question, "By whom were hostilities in *America* commenced?" Perhaps there never can be remembered a time in which hostilities had ceased. Two powerful colonies inflamed with immemorial rivalry, and placed out of the superintendence of the mother nations were not likely to be long at rest. Some opposition was always going forward, some mischief was every day done or meditated, and the borderers were always better pleased with what they could snatch from their neighbours, than what they had of their own.

In this disposition to reciprocal invasion a cause of dispute never could be wanting. The forests and deserts of *America* are without landmarks, and therefore cannot be particularly specified in stipulations. The appellations of those wide extended regions have in every mouth a different meaning, and are understood on either side as inclination happens to contract or extend them. Who has yet pretended to define how much of *America* is included in *Brazil*, *Mexico*, or *Peru*? It is almost as easy to divide the *Atlantic* ocean by a line, as clearly

to ascertain the limits of those uncultivated, uninhabitable, unmeasured regions

It is likewise to be considered, that contracts concerning boundaries are often left vague and indefinite without necessity, by the desire of each party, to interpret the ambiguity to its own advantage when a fit opportunity shall be found. In forming stipulations, the commissaries are often ignorant, and often negligent, they are sometimes weary with debate, and contract a tedious discussion into general terms, or refer it to a former treaty, which was never understood. The weaker part is always afraid of requiring explanations, and the stronger always has an interest in leaving the question undecided. Thus it will happen, without great caution on either side, that after long treaties solemnly ratified, the rights that had been disputed are still equally open to controversy.

In *America*, it may easily be supposed, that there are tracts of land not yet claimed by either party, and therefore mentioned in no treaties, which yet one or the other may be afterwards inclined to occupy, but to these vacant and unsettled countries each nation may pretend, as each conceives itself entitled to all that is not expressly granted to the other.

Here then is a perpetual ground of contest. Every enlargement of the possessions of either will be considered as something taken from the other, and each will endeavour to regain what had never been claimed, but that the other occupied it.

Thus obscure in its original is the *American* contest. It is difficult to find the first invader, or to tell

where invasion properly begins, but I suppose it is not to be doubted, that after the last war, when the *French* had made peace with such apparent superiority, they naturally began to treat us with less respect in distant parts of the world and to consider us as a people from whom they had nothing to fear, and who could no longer presume to contravene their designs, or to check their progress

The power of doing wrong with impunity seldom waits long for the will and it is reasonable to believe, that in *America* the *French* would vow their purpose of aggrandizing themselves with at least as little reserve as in *Europe* We may therefore readily believe that they were unquiet neighbours and had no great regard to right, which they believed us no longer able to enforce

That in forming a line of forts behind our colonies, if in no other part of their attempt, they had acted against the general intention if not against the literal terms of treaties can scarcely be denied, for it never can be supposed that we intended to be enclosed between the sea and the *French* garrisons, or preclude ourselves from extending our plantations backwards to any length that our convenience should require

With dominion is conferred every thing that can secure dominion He that has the coast has likewise the sea to a certain distance, he that possesses a fortress has the right of prohibiting another fortress to be built within the command of its cannon When therefore we planted the coast of *North America*, we supposed the possession of the inland region granted to an indefinite extent, and every nation

that settled in that part of the world, seems, by the permission of every other nation, to have made the same supposition in its own favour

Here then, perhaps, it will be safest to fix the justice of our cause, here we are apparently and indisputably injured, and this injury may, according to the practice of nations, be justly resented. Whether we have not in return made some encroachments upon them, must be left doubtful, till our practices on the *Ohio* shall be stated and vindicated. There are no two nations confining on each other, between whom a war may not always be kindled with plausible pretences on either part, as there is always passing between them a reciprocation of injuries, and fluctuation of encroachments

From the conclusion of the last peace perpetual complaints of the supplantations and invasions of the *French* have been sent to *Europe* from our colonies, and transmitted to our ministers at *Paris*, where good words were sometimes given us, and the practices of the *American* commanders were sometimes disowned, but no redress was ever obtained, nor is it probable that any prohibition was sent to *America*. We were still amused with such doubtful promises as those who are afraid of war are ready to interpret in their own favour, and the *French* pushed forward their line of fortresses, and seemed to resolve that before our complaints were finally dismissed, all remedy should be hopeless.

We likewise endeavoured at the same time to form a barrier against the *Canadians* by sending a colony to *New Scotland*, a cold uncomfortable tract of ground, of which we had long the nominal possession

session before we really began to occupy it. To this those were invited whom the cessation of war deprived of employment, and made burdensome to their country, and settlers were allured thither by many fallacious descriptions of fertile valleys and clear skies. What effects these pictures of *American* happiness had upon my countrymen, I was never informed, but I suppose very few sought provision in those frozen regions, whom guilt or poverty did not drive from their native country. About the boundaries of this new colony there were some disputes, but as there was nothing yet worth a contest, the power of the *French* was not much exerted on that side. Some disturbance was however given, and some skirmishes ensued. But perhaps being peopled chiefly with soldiers, who would rather live by plunder than by agriculture, and who consider war as their best trade, *New Scotland* would be more obstinately defended than some settlements of far greater value, and the *French* are too well informed of their own interest to provoke hostility for no advantage, or to select that country for invasion, where they must hazard much and can win little. They therefore pressed on southward behind our ancient and wealthy settlements, and built fort after fort at such distances that they might conveniently relieve one another invade our colonies with sudden incursions, and retire to places of safety before our people could unite to oppose them.

This design of the *French* has been long formed, and long known, both in *America* and *Europe*, and might at first have been easily repressed, had force been used instead of expostulation. When the *Eng-*  
lish

*Ish* attempted a settlement upon the island of *St. Lucia*, the *French*, whether justly or not, considering it as neutral and forbidden to be occupied by either nation, immediately landed upon it, and destroyed the houses, wasted the plantations, and drove or carried away the inhabitants. This was done in the time of peace, when mutual professions of friendship were daily exchanged by the two courts, and was not considered as any violation of treaties, nor was any more than a very soft remonstrance made on our part.

The *French* therefore taught us how to act, but an *Hanoverian* quarrel with the house of *Austria* for some time induced us to court, at any expense, the alliance of a nation whose very situation makes them our enemies. We suffered them to destroy our settlements, and to advance their own, which we had an equal right to attack. The time however came at last, when we ventured to quarrel with *Spain*, and then *France* no longer suffered the appearance of peace to subsist between us, but armed in defence of her ally.

The events of the war are well known, we pleased ourselves with a victory at *Dettingen*, where we left our wounded men to the care of our enemies, but our army was broken at *Fontenoy* and *Val*, and though after the disgrace which we suffered in the *Mediterranean*, we had some naval success, and an accidental dearth made peace necessary for the *French*, yet they prescribed the conditions, obliged us to give hostages, and acted as conquerors, though as conquerors of moderation.

In this war the *Americans* distinguished themselves

in a manner unknown and unexpected The *New-English* raised an army, and under the command of *Pepperel* took *Cape Breton*, with the assistance of the fleet This is the most important fortress in *America* We pleased ourselves so much with the acquisition, that we could not think of restoring it, and, among the arguments used to enflame the people against *Charles Stuart*, it was very clamorously urged, that if he gained the kingdom, he would give *Cape Breton* back to the *French*

The *French* however had a more easy expedient to regain *Cape Breton* than by exalting *Charles Stuart* to the *English* throne They took in their turn fort *St George*, and had our *East India Company* wholly in their power, whom they restored at the peace to their former possessions, that they may continue to export our silver

*Cape Breton* therefore was restored, and the *French* were reestablished in *America*, with equal power and greater spirit, having lost nothing by the war which they had before gained

To the general reputation of their arms, and that habitual superiority which they derive from it, they owe their power in *America* rather than to any real strength or circumstances of advantage Their numbers are yet not great their trade, though duly improved is not very extensive their country is barren, their fortresses, though numerous are weak and rather shelters from wild beasts, or savage nations, than places built for defence against bombs or canons *Cape Breton* has been found not to be impregnable nor if we consider the state of the places possessed by the two nations in *America*, is there any  
reason

reason upon which the *French* should have presumed to molest us, but that they thought our spirit so broken that we durst not resist them, and in this opinion our long forbearance easily confirmed them.

We forgot, or rather avoided to think, that what we delayed to do must be done at last, and done with more difficulty, as it was delayed longer, that while we were complaining, and they were eluding, or answering our complaints, fort was rising upon fort, and one invasion made a precedent for another.

This confidence of the *French* is exalted by some real advantages. If they possess in those countries less than we, they have more to gain, and less to hazard, if they are less numerous, they are better united.

The *French* compose one body with one head. They have all the same interest, and agree to pursue it by the same means. They are subject to a government commissioned by an absolute monarch, and participating the authority of his master. Designs are therefore formed without debate, and executed without impediment. They have yet more martial than mercantile ambition, and seldom suffer their military schemes to be entangled with collateral projects of gain. they have no wish but for conquest, of which they justly consider riches as the consequence.

Some advantages they will always have as invaders. They make war at the hazard of their enemies, the contest being carried on in our territories, we must lose more by a victory, than they will suffer  
by

by a defeat They will subsist, while they stay, upon our plantations, and perhaps destroy them when they can stay no longer If we pursue them, and carry the war into their dominions, our difficulties will increase every step as we advance, for we shall leave plenty behind us, and find nothing in *Canada* but lakes and forests barren and trackless our enemies will shut themselves up in their forts, against which it is difficult to bring cannon through so rough a country, and which, if they are provided with good magazines, will soon starve those who besiege them

All these are the natural effects of their government and situation they are accidentally more formidable as they are less happy But the favour of the *Indians* which they enjoy, with very few exceptions, among all the nations of the northern continent, we ought to consider with other thoughts this favour we might have enjoyed, if we had been careful to deserve it The *French*, by having these savage nations on their side are always supplied with spies and guides and with auxiliaries, like the *Tatars* to the *Turks* or the *Hussars* to the *Germans*, of no great use against troops ranged in order of battle, but very well qualified to maintain a war among woods and rivulets where much mischief may be done by unexpected onsets and safety be obtained by quick retreats They can waste a colony by sudden inroads surprise the straggling planters frighten the inhabitants into towns, hinder the cultivation of lands, and starve those whom they are not able to conquer

AN  
INTRODUCTION

TO THE

Political State of *Great Britain*.

Written in the Year 1756\*.

THE present system of *English* politicks may properly be said to have taken rise in the reign of Queen *Elizabeth*. At this time, the Protestant religion was established, which naturally allied us to the reformed state, and made all the popish powers our enemies.

We began in the same reign to extend our trade, by which we made it necessary to ourselves to watch the commercial progress of our neighbours, and, if not to incommode and obstruct their traffick, to hinder them from impairing ours.

We then likewise settled colonies in *America*, which was become the great scene of *European* ambition, for, seeing with what treasures the *Spaniards* were annually enriched from *Mexico* and *Peru*, every nation imagined, that an *American* conquest or plantation, would certainly fill the mother country with gold and silver. This produced a large extent of very distant dominions, of which we, at this time,

\* This was the introductory article to the Literary Magazine, N<sup>o</sup> I—See p. 281.

neither knew nor foresaw the advantage or incumbrance we seem to have snatched them into our hands, upon no very just principles of policy, only, because every state, according to a prejudice of long continuance, concludes itself more powerful as its territories become larger

The discoveries of new regions, which were then every day made, the profit of remote traffick, and the necessity of long voyages produced in a few years, a great multiplication of shipping. These were considered as the wealthy element, and, by degrees, a new kind of sovereignty arose, called naval dominion

As the chief trade of the world, so the chief maritime power was at first in the hands of the *Portuguese* and *Spaniards*, who by a compact, to which the consent of other princes was not asked had divided the newly discovered countries between them but the crown of *Portugal* having fallen to the king of *Spain*, or being seized by him, he was master of the ships of the two nations, with which he kept all the coasts of *Europe* in alarm, till the *Armada*, which he had raised at a vast expense for the conquest of *England*, was destroyed, which put a stop, and almost an end, to the naval power of the *Spaniards*

At this time the *Dutch*, who were oppressed by the *Spaniards*, and feared yet greater evils than they felt resolved no longer to endure the insolence of their masters they therefore revolted and after a struggle, in which they were assisted by the money and forces of *Elizabeth* erected an independent and powerful commonwealth

When the inhabitants of the Low Countries had formed,

formed their system of government, and some remission of the war gave them leisure to form schemes of future prosperity, they easily perceived, that as their territories were narrow, and their numbers small, they could preserve themselves only by that power which is the consequence of wealth, and that, by a people whose country produced only the necessaries of life, wealth was not to be acquired, but from foreign dominions, and by the transportation of the products of one country into another.

From this necessity, thus justly estimated, arose a plan of commerce, which was for many years prosecuted with industry and success, perhaps never seen in the world before, and by which the poor tenants of mud-walled villages and impassable bogs, erected themselves into high and mighty states, who put the greatest monarchs at defiance, whose alliance was courted by the proudest, and whose power was dreaded by the fiercest nation. By the establishment of this state there arose to *England* a new ally, and a new rival.

At this time, which seems to be the period destined for the change of the face of *Europe*, *France* began first to rise into power, and, from defending her own provinces with difficulty and fluctuating success, to threaten her neighbours with encroachments and devastations. *Henry* the Fourth having, after a long struggle, obtained the crown, found it easy to govern nobles exhausted and wearied with a long civil war, and having composed the disputes between the Protestants and Papists, so as to obtain at least a truce for both parties, was at leisure to accumulate treasure, and raise forces which he purposed

posed to have employed in a design of settling for ever the balance of *Europe*. Of this great scheme he lived not to see the vanity, or to feel the disappointment, for he was murdered in the midst of his mighty preparations.

The *French*, however, were in this reign taught to know their own power, and the great designs of a king whose wisdom they had so long experienced, even though they were not brought to actual experiment disposed them to consider themselves as masters of the destiny of their neighbours, and, from that time he that shall nicely examine their schemes and conduct, will, I believe, find that they began to take an air of superiority to which they had never pretended before, and that they have been always employed more or less openly upon schemes of dominion, though with frequent interruptions from domestick troubles, and with those intermissions which human counsels must always suffer, as men intrusted with great affairs are dissipated in youth, and languid in age, are embarrassed by competitors or, without any external reason, change their minds.

*France* was now no longer in dread of insults and invasions from *England*. She was not only able to maintain her own territories, but prepared, on all occasions to invade others, and we had now a neighbour whose interest it was to be an enemy, and who has disturbed us, from that time to this, with open hostility or secret machinations.

Such was the state of *England* and its neighbours, when *Elizabeth* left the crown to *James* of *Scotland*. It has not, I think, been frequently observed

by historians at how critical a time the union of the two kingdoms happened. Had *England* and *Scotland* continued separate kingdoms, when *France* was established in the full possession of her natural power, the *Scots*, in continuance of the league, which it would now have been more than ever their interest to observe, would, upon every instigation of the *French* court, have raised an army with *French* money, and harassed us with an invasion, in which they would have thought themselves successful, whatever numbers they might have left behind them. To a people warlike and indigent, an incursion into a rich country is never hurtful. The pay of *France* and the plunder of the northern counties, would always have tempted them to hazard their lives, and we should have been under a necessity of keeping a line of garrisons along our border.

This trouble, however, we escaped by the accession of king *James*, but it is uncertain, whether his natural disposition did not injure us more than this accidental condition happened to benefit us. He was a man of great theoretical knowledge, but of no practical wisdom, he was very well able to discern the true interest of himself, his kingdom, and his posterity, but sacrificed it, upon all occasions, to his present pleasure or his present ease; so conscious of his own knowledge and abilities, that he would not suffer a minister to govern, and so lax of attention, and timorous of opposition, that he was not able to govern for himself. With this character *James* quietly saw the *Dutch* invade our commerce, the *French* grew every day stronger and stronger, and the Protestant interest, of which he boasted himself the head,

was

was oppressed on every side, while he writ, and hunted, and despatched ambassadors, who, when their master's weakness was once known, were treated in foreign courts with very little ceremony. *James*, however, took care to be flattered at home, and was neither angry nor ashamed at the appearance that he made in other countries.

Thus *England* grew weaker, or, what is in political estimation the same thing, saw her neighbours grow stronger without receiving proportionable additions to her own power. Not that the mischief was so great as it is generally conceived or represented, for, I believe, it may be made to appear, that the wealth of the nation was, in this reign, very much increased, though that of the crown was lessened. Our reputation for war was impaired, but commerce seems to have been carried on with great industry and vigour, and nothing was wanting, but that we should have defended ourselves from the encroachments of our neighbours.

The inclination to plant colonies in *America* still continued and this being the only project in which men of adventure and enterprise could exert their qualities in a pacifick reign multitudes, who were discontented with their condition in their native country, and such multitudes there will always be, sought relief or at least a change in the western regions, where they settled in the northern part of the continent at a distance from the *Spaniards*, at that time almost the only nation that had any power or will to obstruct us.

Such was the condition of this country when the unhappy *Charles* inherited the crown. He had seen the errors of his father, without being able to prevent them, and, when he began his reign, endeavoured to raise the nation to its former dignity. The *French* Papists had begun a new war upon the Protestants. *Charles* sent a fleet to invade *Rhée* and relieve *Rochelle*, but his attempts were defeated, and the Protestants were subdued. The *Dutch*, grown wealthy and strong, claimed the right of fishing in the *British* seas. This claim the king, who saw the increasing power of the states of *Holland*, resolved to contest. But for this end it was necessary to build a fleet, and a fleet could not be built without expense. He was advised to levy ship-money, which gave occasion to the Civil War, of which the events and conclusion are too well known.

While the inhabitants of this island were embroiled among themselves, the power of *France* and *Holland* was every day increasing. The *Dutch* had overcome the difficulties of their infant commonwealth, and as they still retained their vigour and industry, from which grew continually richer, and from powerful more powerful. They extended their traffick, and had not yet admitted luxury, so that they had the means and the will to accumulate wealth without any incitement to spend it. The *French*, who wanted nothing to make them powerful, but a prudent regulation of their revenues, and a proper use of their natural advantages, by the successive care of skilful ministers, became every day stronger, and more conscious of their strength.

About

About this time it was, that the *French* first began to turn their thoughts to traffick and navigation, and to desire like other nations in *American* territory. All the fruitful and valuable parts of the western world were already either occupied or claimed and nothing remained for *France* but the leavings of other navigators, for she was not yet haughty enough to seize what the neighbouring powers had already appropriated.

The *French* therefore contented themselves with sending a colony to *Canada* a cold uncomfortable uninviting region, from which nothing but furs and fish were to be had, and where the new inhabitants could only pass a laborious and necessitous life in perpetual regret of the deliciousness and plenty of their native country.

Notwithstanding the opinion which our countrymen have been taught to entertain of the comprehension and foresight of *French* politicians I am not able to persuade myself that when this colony was first planted, it was thought of much value, even by those that encouraged it, there was probably nothing more intended than to provide a drain into which the waste of an exuberant nation might be thrown, a place where those who could do no good might live without the power of doing mischief. Some new advantage they undoubtedly saw or imagined themselves to see and what more was necessary to the establishment of the colony was supplied by natural inclination to experiments and that impatience of doing nothing to which mankind perhaps owe much of what is imagined to be effected by more splendid motives.

In this region of desolate sterility they settled themselves, upon whatever principle, and as they have from that time had the happiness of a government by which no interest has been neglected, nor any part of their subjects overlooked, they have, by continual encouragement and assistance from *France*, been perpetually enlarging their bounds and increasing their numbers.

These were at first, like other nations who invaded *America*, inclined to consider the neighbourhood of the natives, as troublesome and dangerous, and are charged with having destroyed great numbers; but they are now grown wiser, if not honest, and instead of endeavouring to frighten the *Indians* away, they invite them to intermarriage and cohabitation, and allure them by all practicable methods to become the subjects of the king of *France*.

If the *Spaniards*, when they first took possession of the newly-discovered world, instead of destroying the inhabitants by thousands, had either had the urbanity or the policy to have conciliated them by kind treatment, and to have united them gradually to their own people, such an accession might have been made to the power of the king of *Spain*, as would have made him far the greatest monarch that ever yet ruled in the globe, but the opportunity was lost by foolishness and cruelty, and now can never be recovered.

When the parliament had finally prevailed over our king, and the army over the parliament, the interest of the two commonwealths of *England* and *Holland* soon appeared to be opposite, and a new government declared war against the *Dutch*. In this contest

contest was exerted the utmost power of the two nations, and the *Dutch* were finally defeated, yet not with such evidence of superiority as left us much reason to boast our victory, they were obliged however to solicit peace, which was granted them on easy conditions and *Cromwell*, who was now possessed of the supreme power, was left at leisure to pursue other designs

The *European* powers had not yet ceased to look with envy on the *Spanish* acquisitions in *America*, and therefore *Cromwell* thought, that if he gained any part of these celebrated regions, he should exalt his own reputation and enrich the country He therefore quarrelled with the *Spaniards* upon some such subject of contention as he that is resolved upon hostility may always find, and sent *Penn* and *Venables* into the western seas They first landed in *Hispaniola* whence they were driven off with no great reputation to themselves and that they might not return without having done something, they afterwards invaded *Jamaica* where they found less resistance, and obtained that island which was afterwards consigned to us, being probably of little value to the *Spaniards* and continues to this day a place of great wealth, and dreadful wickedness, a den of tyrants and a dungeon of slaves

*Cromwell*, who perhaps had not leisure to study foreign politics was very fatally mistaken with regard to *Spain* and *France* *Spain* had been the last power in *Europe*, which had openly pretended to give law to other nations, and the memory of this terror remained when the real cause was at an end We had more lately been frightened by *Spain* than by

*France*, and though very few were then alive of the generation that had their sleep broken by the *Armada*, yet the name of the *Spaniards* was still terrible, and a war against them was pleasing to the people

Our own troubles had left us very little desire to look out upon the continent, an inveterate prejudice hindered us from perceiving, that for more than half a century the power of *France* had been increasing, and that of *Spain* had been growing less, nor does it seem to have been remembered, which yet required no great depth of policy to discern, that of two monarchs, neither of which could be long our friend, it was our interest to have the weaker near us; or that if a war should happen, *Spain*, however wealthy or strong in herself, was by the dispersion of her territories more obnoxious to the attacks of a naval power, and consequently had more to fear from us, and had it less in her power to hurt us

All these considerations were overlooked by the wisdom of that age, and *Cromwell* assisted the *French* to drive the *Spaniards* out of *Flanders*, at a time when it was our interest to have supported the *Spaniards* against *France*, as formerly the *Hollanders* against *Spain*, by which we might at least have retarded the growth of the *French* power, though I think it must have finally prevailed

During this time our colonies, which were less disturbed by our commotions than the mother-country, naturally increased; it is probable that many who were unhappy at home took shelter in those remote regions, where, for the sake of in-  
viting

viting greater numbers, every one was allowed to think and live his own way. The *French* settlement in the mean time went slowly forward too inconsiderable to raise any jealousy, and too weak to attempt any encroachments.

When *Cromwell* died, the confusions that followed produced the restoration of monarchy, and some time was employed in repairing the ruins of our constitution, and restoring the nation to a state of peace. In every change there will be many that suffer real or imaginary grievances, and therefore many will be dissatisfied. This was, perhaps, the reason why several colonies had their beginning in the reign of *Charles* the Second. The *Quakers* willingly sought refuge in *Pennsylvania*, and it is not unlikely that *Carolina* owed its inhabitants to the remains of that restless disposition which had given so much disturbance to our country, and had now no opportunity of acting at home.

The *Dutch* still continuing to increase in wealth and power either kindled the resentment of their neighbours by their insolence, or raised their envy by their prosperity. *Charles* made war upon them without much advantage but they were obliged at last to confess him the sovereign of the narrow seas. They were reduced almost to extremities by an invasion from *France*, but soon recovered from their consternation and by the fluctuation of war regained their cities and provinces with the same speed as they had lost them.

During the time of *Charles* the Second the power of *France* was every day increasing and *Charles*, who never disturbed himself with remote consequences,

quences, saw the progress of her aims, and the extension of her dominions, with very little uneasiness. He was indeed sometimes driven by the prevailing faction into confederacies against her, but as he had, probably, a secret partiality in her favour, he never persevered long in acting against her, nor ever acted with much vigour. so that, by his feeble resistance, he rather raised her confidence than hindered her designs.

About this time the *French* first began to perceive the advantage of commerce, and the importance of a naval force, and such encouragement was given to manufactures, and so eagerly was every project received by which trade could be advanced, that, in a few years, the sea was filled with their ships, and all the parts of the world crowded with their merchants. There is, perhaps, no instance in human story of such a change produced, in so short a time, in the schemes and manners of a people, of so many new sources of wealth opened, and such numbers of artificers and merchants made to start out of the ground, as was seen in the ministry of *Colbert*.

Now it was that the power of *France* became formidable to *England*. Her dominions were large before, and her armies numerous, but her operations were necessarily confined to the continent. She had neither ships for the transportation of her troops, nor money for their support in distant expeditions. *Colbert* saw both these wants, and saw that commerce only would supply them. The fertility of their country furnishes the *French* with commodities, the poverty of the common people keeps the price of labour low. By the obvious practice of  
selling

selling much and buying little, it was apparent that they would soon draw the wealth of other countries into their own, and by carrying out their merchandise in their own vessels, a numerous body of sailors would quickly be raised.

This was projected, and this was performed. The king of *France* was soon enabled to bribe those whom he could not conquer, and to terrify with his fleets those whom his armies could not have approached. The influence of *France* was suddenly diffused all over the globe, her arms were dreaded, and her pensions received in remote regions, and those were almost ready to acknowledge her sovereignty, who, a few years before, had scarcely heard her name. She thundered on the coasts of *Africa*, and received ambassadors from *Siam*.

So much may be done by one wise man endeavouring with honesty the advantage of the publick. But that we may not rashly condemn all ministers as wanting wisdom or integrity, whose counsels have produced no such apparent benefits to their country it must be considered that *Colbert* had means of acting, which our government does not allow. He could enforce all his orders by the power of an absolute monarch. he could compel individuals to sacrifice their private profit to the general good. he could make one understanding preside over many hands and remove difficulties by quick and violent expedients. Where no man thinks himself under any obligation to submit to another, and, instead of cooperating in one great scheme every one hastens through by-paths to private profit no great change can suddenly be made, nor is superior knowledge  
of

of much effect, where every man resolves to use his own eyes and his own judgment, and every one applauds his own dexterity and diligence, in proportion as he becomes rich sooner than his neighbour

Colonies are always the effects and causes of navigation. They who visit many countries find some in which pleasure, profit, or safety invite them to settle, and these settlements, when they are once made, must keep a perpetual correspondence with the original country to which they are subject, and on which they depend for protection in danger, and supplies in necessity. So that a country once discovered and planted, must always find employment for shipping, more certainly than any foreign commerce, which, depending on casualties, may be sometimes more and sometimes less, and which other nations may contract or suppress. A trade to colonies can never be much impaired, being, in reality, only an intercourse between distant provinces of the same empire, from which intruders are easily excluded; likewise the interest and affection of the correspondent parties, however distant, is the same.

On this reason all nations, whose power has been exerted on the ocean, have fixed colonies in remote parts of the world, and while those colonies subsisted, navigation, if it did not increase, was always preserved from total decay. With this policy the *French* were well acquainted, and therefore improved and augmented the settlements in *America*, and other regions, in proportion as they advanced their schemes of naval greatness.

The exact time in which they made their acquisitions in *America*, or other quarters of the globe, it

is not necessary to collect It is sufficient to observe, that their trade and their colonies increased together, and if their naval armaments were carried on, as they really were, in greater proportion to their commerce, than can be practised in other countries, it must be attributed to the martial disposition at that time prevailing in the nation, to the frequent wars which *Lewis* the Fourteenth made upon his neighbours and to the extensive commerce of the *English* and *Dutch*, which afforded so much plunder to privateers, that war was more lucrative than to us.

Thus the naval power of *France* continued to increase during the reign of *Charles the Second* who between his fondness of ease and pleasure, the struggles of faction which he could not suppress, and his inclination to the friendship of absolute monarchy had not much power or desire to repress it And of *James the Second*, it could not be expected that he should act against his neighbours with great vigour, having the whole body of his subjects to oppose He was not ignorant of the real interest of his country, he desired its power and its happiness and thought rightly, that there is no happiness without religion, but he thought very erroneously and absurdly that there is no religion without popery

When the necessity of self preservation had unpelled the subjects of *James* to drive him from the throne there came a time in which the passions, as well as interest of the government, acted against the *French* and in which it may perhaps be reasonably doubted, whether the desire of humbling *France* was not stronger than that of exalting *England*

of this, however, it is not necessary to inquire, since, though the intention may be different, the event will be the same. All mouths were now open to declare what every eye had observed before, that the arms of *France* were become dangerous to *Europe*; and that, if her encroachments were suffered a little longer, resistance would be too late.

It was now determined to reassert the empire of the sea; but it was more easily determined than performed the *French* made a vigorous defence against the united power of *England* and *Holland*, and were sometimes masters of the ocean, though the two maritime powers were united against them. At length, however, they were defeated at *La Hogue*, a great part of their fleet was destroyed, and they were reduced to carry on the war only with their privateers, from whom there was suffered much petty mischief, though there was no danger of conquest or invasion. They distressed our merchants, and obliged us to the continual expense of convoys and fleets of observation; and, by skulking in little coves and shallow waters, escaped our pursuit.

In this reign began our confederacy with the *Dutch*, which mutual interest has now improved into a friendship, conceived by some to be inseparable, and from that time the States began to be termed, in the style of politicians, our faithful friends, the allies which Nature has given us, our Protestant confederates, and by many other names of national endearment. We have, it is true, the same interest, as opposed to *France*, and some resemblance of religion, as opposed to Popery, but we have such a rivalry, in respect of commerce, as

will always keep us from very close adherence to each other. No mercantile man or mercantile nation, has any friendship but for money, and alliance between them will last no longer than their common safety or common profit is endangered, no longer than they have an enemy, who threatens to take from each more than either can steal from the other.

We were both sufficiently interested in repressing the ambition, and obstructing the commerce of *France*, and therefore we concurred with as much fidelity and as regular cooperation as is commonly found. The *Dutch* were in immediate danger the armies of their enemies hovered over their country, and therefore they were obliged to dismiss for a time their love of money, and their narrow projects of private profit, and to do what a trader does not willingly at any time believe necessary, to sacrifice a part for the preservation of the whole.

A peace was at length made, and the *French* with their usual vigour and industry rebuilt their fleets restored their commerce and became in a very few years able to contest again the dominion of the sea. Their ships were well built, and always very numerously manned, their commanders having no hopes but from their bravery or their fortune, were resolute, and being very carefully educated for the sea were eminently skilful.

All this was soon perceived, when queen *Anne*, the then darling of *England*, declared war against *France*. Our success by sea, though sufficient to keep us from dejection, was not such as dejected  
our

our enemies. It is, indeed, to be confessed, that we did not exert our whole naval strength, *Marlborough* was the governor of our counsels, and the great view of *Marlborough* was a war by land, which he knew well how to conduct, both to the honour of his country, and his own profit. The fleet was therefore starved that the army might be supplied, and naval advantages were neglected for the sake of taking a town in *Flanders*, to be garrisoned by our allies. The *French*, however, were so weakened by one defeat after another, that, though their fleet was never destroyed by any total overthrow, they at last retained it in their harbours, and applied their whole force to the resistance of the confederate army, that now began to approach their frontiers, and threatened to lay waste their provinces and cities.

In the latter years of this war, the danger of their neighbourhood in *America* seems to have been considered, and a fleet was fitted out and supplied with a proper number of land forces to seize *Quebec*, the capital of *Canada*, or *New France*, but this expedition miscarried, like that of *Anson* against the *Spaniards*, by the lateness of the season, and our ignorance of the coasts on which we were to act. We returned with loss, and only excited our enemies to greater vigilance, and perhaps to stronger fortifications.

When the peace of *Utrecht* was made, which those who clamoured among us most loudly against it, found it their interest to keep, the *French* applied themselves with the utmost industry to the extension  
of

of their trade, which we were so far from hindering, that for many years our ministry thought their friendship of such value, as to be cheaply purchased by whatever concession

Instead therefore of opposing, as we had hitherto professed to do the boundless ambition of the House of *Bourbon* we became on a sudden solicitous for its exaltation, and studious of its interest We assisted the schemes of *France* and *Spain* with our fleets, and endeavoured to make those our friends by servility, whom nothing but power will keep quiet, and who must always be our enemies while they are endeavouring to grow greater, and we determine to remain free

That nothing might be omitted which could testify our willingness to continue on any terms the good friends of *France* we were content to assist not only their conquests but their traffick, and though we did not openly repeal the prohibitory laws, we yet tamely suffered commerce to be carried on between the two nations, and wool was daily imported, to enable them to make cloth, which they carried to our markets and sold cheaper than we

During all this time, they were extending and strengthening their settlements in *America* contriving new modes of traffick, and framing new alliances with the *Indian* nations They began now to find these northern regions, barren and desolate as they are sufficiently valuable to desire at least a nominal possession, that might furnish a pretence for the exclusion of others, they therefore extended their claim to tracts of land, which they could never hope to occupy, took care to give their dominions

an unlimited magnitude, have given in their maps the name of *Louisiana* to a country, of which part is claimed by the *Spaniards*, and part by the *English*, without any regard to ancient boundaries, or prior discovery

When the return of *Columbus* from his great voyage had filled all *Europe* with wonder and curiosity, *Henry* the Seventh sent *Sebastian Cabot* to try what could be found for the benefit of *England*, he declined the track of *Columbus*, and steering to the westward fell upon the island, which, from that time, was called by the *English*, *Newfoundland*. Our princes seem to have considered themselves as entitled by their right of prior seizure to the northern parts of *America*, as the *Spaniards* were allowed by universal consent their claim to the southern region for the same reason, and we accordingly made our principal settlements within the limits of our own discoveries, and, by degrees, planted the eastern coast from *Newfoundland* to *Georgia*.

As we had, according to the *European* principles, which allow nothing to the natives of these regions, our choice of situation in this extensive country, we naturally fixed our habitations along the coast, for the sake of traffick and correspondence, and all the conveniencies of navigable rivers. And when one port or river was occupied, the next colony, instead of fixing themselves in the inland parts behind the former, went on southward, till they pleased themselves with another maritime situation. For this reason our colonies have more length than depth, their extent from east to west, or from the sea to the interior country, bears no proportion

tion to their reach along the coast from north to south

It was, however, understood by a kind of tacit compact among the commercial powers, that possession of the coast included a right to the inland and therefore, the charters granted to the several colonies limit their districts only from north to south leaving their possessions from east to west unlimited and discretionary, supposing that as the colony increases, they may take lands as they shall want them the possession of the coasts excluding other navigators and the unhappy *Indians* having no right of nature or of nations

This right of the first *European* possessor was not disputed till it became the interest of the *French* to question it *Canada* or *New France* on which they made their first settlement is situated eastward of our colonies between which they pass up the great river of *St Lawrence*, with *Newfoundland* on the north, and *Nova Scotia* on the south Their establishment in this country was neither envied nor hindered, and they lived here, in no great numbers a long time neither molesting their *European* neighbours, nor molested by them

But when they grew stronger and more numerous, they began to extend their territories and as it is natural for men to seek their own convenience the desire of more fertile and agreeable habitations tempted them southward There is land enough to the north and west of their settlements, which they may occupy with as good right as can be shown by the other *European* usurpers, and which neither the *English* nor *Spaniards* will contest but of this cold region they have enough already, and their resolu

tion was to get a better country. This was not to be had but by settling to the west of our plantations, on ground which has been hitherto supposed to belong to us.

Hither, therefore, they resolved to remove, and to fix, at their own discretion, the western border of our colonies, which was heretofore considered as unlimited. Thus by forming a line of forts, in some measure parallel to the coast, they enclose us between their garrisons and the sea, and not only hinder our extension westward, but, whenever they have a sufficient navy in the sea, can harass us on each side, as they can invade us at pleasure from one or other of their forts.

This design was not perhaps discovered as soon as it was formed, and was certainly not opposed so soon as it was discovered, we foolishly hoped, that their encroachments would stop, that they would be prevailed on by treaty and remonstrance, to give up what they had taken, or to put limits to themselves. We suffered them to establish one settlement after another, to pass boundary after boundary, and add fort to fort, till at last they grew strong enough to avow their designs, and defy us to obstruct them.

By these provocations long continued, we are at length forced into a war, in which we have had hitherto very ill fortune. Our troops under *Braddock* were dishonourably defeated, our fleets have yet done nothing more than taken a few merchant-ships, and have distressed some private families, but have very little weakened the power of *France*. The detention of their seamen makes it indeed less easy for them to fit out their navy, but this deficiency will

will be easily supplied by the avarice of the nation, which is always eager for war

It is displeasing to represent our affairs to our own disadvantage, yet it is necessary to show the evils which we desire to be removed, and therefore, some account may very properly be given of the measures which have given them their present superiority

They are said to be supplied from *France* with better governours than our colonies have the fate to obtain from *England* A *French* governour is seldom chosen for any other reason than his qualifications for his trust To be a bankrupt at home, or to be so infamously vicious that he cannot be decently protected in his own country, seldom recommends any man to the government of a *French* colony Their officers are commonly skilful either in war or commerce and are taught to have no expectation of honour or preferment, but from the justice and vigour of their administration

Their great security is the friendship of the natives, and to this advantage they have certainly an indubitable right, because it is the consequence of their virtue It is ridiculous to imagine, that the friendship of nations, whether civil or barbarous, can be gained and kept but by kind treatment, and surely they who intrude, uncalled, upon the country of a distant people, ought to consider the natives as worthy of common kindness, and content themselves to rob without insulting them The *French*, as has been already observed, admit the *Indians*, by intermarriage, to an equality with themselves, and those nations, with which they have no such near intercourse, they gain over to their interest by honesty in

their dealings. Our factors and traders, having no other purpose in view than immediate profit, use all the arts of an *European* counting-house, to defraud the simple hunter of his furs.

These are some of the causes of our present weakness, our planters are always quarrelling with their government, whom they consider as less to be trusted than the *French*, and our traders hourly alienate the *Indians* by their tricks and oppressions, and we continue every day to show by new proofs, that no people can be great who have ceased to be virtuous.

# MISCELLANEOUS ESSAYS

## REVIEW\*

OF

*MEMOIRS of the Court of AUGUSTUS,*

“By THOMAS BLACKWELL J U D

Principal of MARISIAL COLLEGE in the University of ABERDEEN

THE first effect which this book has upon the reader is that of disgusting him with the Author's vanity. He endeavours to persuade the world, that here are some new treasures of literature spread before his eyes, that something is discovered, which to this happy day had been concealed in darkness; that by his diligence time had been robbed of some valuable monument which he was on the point of devouring, and that names and facts doomed to oblivion are now restored to fame.

How must the unlearned reader be surprised, when he shall be told that Mr *Blackwell* has neither dugged in the ruins of any demolished city, nor found out the way to the library of *Fez*, nor had a single book in his hands, that has not been in the possession of every man that was inclined to read it, for years and ages, and that his book relates to a people who above all others have furnished employment to the

\* Literary Magazine, Vol I p 41

studious, and amusements to the idle, who have scarcely left behind them a coin or a stone which has not been examined and explained a thousand times, and whose dress, and food, and household stuff, it has been the pride of learning to understand

A man need not fear to incur the imputation of vicious diffidence or affected humility, who should have forbore to promise many novelties, when he perceived such multitudes of writers possessed of the same materials, and intent upon the same purpose. Mr *Blackwell* knows well the opinion of *Horace*, concerning those that open their undertakings with magnificent promises, and he knows likewise the dictates of common sense and common honesty, names of greater authority than that of *Horace*, who direct that no man should promise what he cannot perform

I do not mean to declare that this volume has nothing new, or that the labours of those who have gone before our author, have made his performance an useless addition to the burden of literature. New works may be constructed with old materials, the disposition of the parts may show contrivance, the ornaments interspersed may discover elegance

It is not always without good effect that men of proper qualifications write in succession on the same subject, even when the latter add nothing to the information given by the former, for the same ideas may be delivered more intelligibly or more delightfully by one than by another, or with attractions that may lure minds of a different form. No writer pleases all, and every writer may please some

But after all, to inherit is not to acquire, to deco-

rate is not to make, and the man who had nothing to do but to read the ancient authors, who mention the *Roman* affairs, and reduce them to common places, ought not to boast himself as a great benefactor to the studious world

After a preface of boast, and a letter of flattery, in which he seems to imitate the address of *Horace* in his *ile potabis modicus Sabinum*—he opens his book with telling us, that the “*Roman* republic, after the horrible proscription, was no more at bleeding *Rome* The regal power of her consuls, the authority of her senate, and the majesty of her people, were now trampled under foot, these [for those] divine laws and hallowed customs, that had been the essence of her constitution—were set at nought and her best friends were lying exposed in their blood”

These were surely very dismal times to those who suffered but I know not why my one but a school boy in his declamation should whine over the commonwealth of *Rome*, which grew great only by the misery of the rest of mankind The *Romans*, like others, as soon as they grew rich grew corrupt, and, in their corruption, sold the lives and freedoms of themselves and of one another

About this time *Brutus* had his patience put to the highest trial he had been married to *Clodia*, but whether the family did not please him, or whether he was dissatisfied with the lady's behaviour during his absence, he soon entertained thoughts of a separation This raised a good deal of talk and the women of the *Clodian* family inveighed bitterly against *Brutus*—but he married

“ *Portia*,

“ *Portia*, who was worthy of such a father as *M.*  
 “ *Cato*, and such a husband as *M Brutus* She had  
 “ a soul capable of an *exalted passion*, and found a  
 “ proper object to raise and give it a sanction, she  
 “ did not only love but adored her husband, his  
 “ worth, his truth, his every shining and heroic  
 “ quality, made her gaze on him like a god, while  
 “ the endearing returns of esteem and tenderness she  
 “ met with, brought her joy, her pride, her every  
 “ wish to centre in her beloved *Brutus* ”

When the reader has been awakened by this rap-  
 turous preparation, he hears the whole story of *Por-*  
*tia* in the same luxuriant style, till she breathed out  
 her last a little before the *bloody proscription*, and  
 “ *Brutus* complained heavily of his friends at *Rome*,  
 “ as not having paid due attention to his *Lady* in  
 “ the declining state of her health ”

He is a great lover of modern terms His se-  
 nators and their wives are *Gentlemen* and *Ladies*.  
 In this review of *Brutus's* army, who *was under the*  
*command of gallant men, not braver officers than*  
*true patriots*, he tells us, “ that *Sertus the Questor*  
 “ *was Paymaster, Secretary at War, and Commis-*  
 “ *sary General*, and that the *sacred discipline* of  
 “ the *Romans* required the closest connection, like  
 “ that of father and son, to subsist between the Ge-  
 “ neral of an army and his Questor *Cicero was*  
 “ *General of the Cavalry*, and the next general  
 “ officer was *Flavius, Master of the Artillery*, the  
 “ elder *Lentulus was Admiral*, and the younger rode  
 “ in the *Band of Volunteers*, under these the tri-  
 “ bunes, *with many others too tedious to name.*”  
*Lentulus*, however, was but a subordinate officer,  
 for

for we are informed afterwards, that the *Romans* had made *Sextus Pompeius* Lord High Admiral in all the seas of their dominions

Among other affectations of this writer is a furious and unnecessary zeal for liberty or rather for one form of government as preferable to another. This indeed might be suffered, because political institution is a subject in which men have always differed, and if they continue to obey their lawful governours, and attempt not to make innovations for the sake of their favourite schemes they may differ for ever without any just reproach from one another. But who can bear the hardy champion who ventures nothing? who in full security undertakes the defence of the assassination of *Cæsar*, and declares his resolution to *speak plain*? Yet let not just sentiments be overlooked he has justly observed, that the greater part of mankind will be naturally prejudiced against *Brutus*, for all feel the benefits of private friendship, but few can discern the advantages of a well constituted government \*

We know not whether some apology may not be necessary for the distance between the first account of this book and its continuation. The truth is that this work not being forced upon our attention by much publick applause or censure, was sometimes neglected, and sometimes forgotten nor would it, perhaps, have been now resumed, but that we might avoid to disappoint our readers by an abrupt desertion of any subject

It is not our design to criticise the facts of this

\* The first part of this Review closed here. What follows did not appear until seven months after. To which delay the writer alludes with provoking severity

history, but the style, not the veracity, but the address of the writer, for, an account of the ancient *Romans*, as it cannot nearly interest any present reader, and must be drawn from writings that have been long known, can owe its value only to the language in which it is delivered, and the reflections with which it is accompanied. Dr *Blackwell*, however, seems to have heated his imagination so as to be much affected with every event, and to believe that he can affect others. Enthusiasm is indeed sufficiently contagious, but I never found any of his readers much enamoured of the *glorious Pompey*, the *patriot approv'd*, or much incensed against the *lawless Cæsar*, whom this author probably stabs every day and night in his sleeping or waking dreams.

He is come too late into the world with his fury for freedom, with his *Brutus* and *Cassius*. We have all on this side of the *Tweed* long since settled our opinions. his zeal for *Roman* liberty and declamations against the violators of the republican constitution, only stand now in the reader's way, who wishes to proceed in the narrative without the interruption of epithets and exclamations. It is not easy to forbear laughter at a man so bold in fighting shadows, so busy in a dispute two thousand years past, and so zealous for the honour of a people who while they were poor robbed mankind, and as soon as they became rich, robbed one another. Of these robberies our author seems to have no very quick sense, except when they are committed by *Cæsar's* party, for every act is sanctified by the name of a patriot.

If this author's skill in ancient literature were less generally acknowledged, one might sometimes suspect

pect that he had too frequently consulted the *French* writers. He tells us that *Archelaus* the *Rhodian* made a speech to *Cassius*, and in so saying dropt some tears, and that *Cassius* after the reduction of *Rhodes* was covered with glory — *Deiotarus* was a keen and happy spirit — The ingrate *Castor* kept his court

His great delight is to show his universal acquaintance with terms of art, with words that every other polite writer has avoided and despised. When *Pompey* conquered the pirates, he destroyed fifteen hundred ships of the line — The *Anthian* parapets were tore down — *Brutus*, suspecting that his troops were plundering, commanded the trumpets to sound to their colours — Most people understood the act of attainder passed by the senate — The *Numidian* troopers were unlikely in their appearance — The *Numidians* beat up one quarter after another — *Salvidienus* resolved to pass his men over in boats of leather, and he gave orders for equipping a sufficient number of that sort of small craft — *Pompey* had light agile frigates, and fought in a strait where the current and caverns occasion swirls and a roll — A sharp out look was kept by the admiral — It is a run of about fifty *Roman* miles — *Brutus* broke *Lipella* in the sight of the army — *Mark Antony* garbled the senate — He was a brave man, well qualified for a commodore

In his choice of phrases he frequently uses words with great solemnity, which every other mouth and pen has appropriated to jocularity and levity. The *Rhodians* gave up the contest, and in poor plight fled back to *Rhodes* — Boys and girls were easily kidnapped — *Deiotarus* was a mighty believer of augury — *Deiotarus* destroyed his ungracious progeny

geny. The regularity of the *Romans* was their mortal aversion. They desired the consuls to curb such heinous doings. He had such a shrewd invention, that no side of a question came amiss to him. *Brutus* found his mistress a coquettish creature.

He sometimes, with most unlucky dexterity, mixes the grand and the burlesque together; *the violation of faith, Sin, says Cassius, lies at the door of the Rhodians by reiterated acts of perfidy*. The non grate fell down, crushed those under it to death, and caught the rest as in a trap. When the *Xanthians* heard the military shout, and saw the flame mount, they concluded there would be no mercy. It was now about sun-set, and they had been at hot work since noon.

He has often words or phrases with which our language has hitherto had no knowledge. One was a heart-friend to the republic. A deed was expedited. The *Numidians* begun to reel, and were in hazard of falling into confusion. The tutor embraced his pupil close in his arms. Four hundred women were taxed who have no doubt been the wives of the best *Roman* citizens. Men not born to action are inconsequential in government. collectitious troops. The foot by then violent attack began the fatal break in the *Pharsalic* field. He and his brother, with a politic common to other countries, had taken opposite sides.

His epithets are of the gaudy or hyperbolical kind. The glorious news. Eager hopes and dismal fears. Bleeding *Rome*. divine laws and hallowed customs--merciless war, intense anxiety.

Sometimes the reader is suddenly ravished with a sonorous sentence, of which when the noise is past, the

the meaning does not long remain. When *Brutus* set his legions to fill a moat, instead of heavy dragging and slow toil, they set about it with huzzas and racing as if they had been striving at the *Olympick* games. They hurled impetuous down the huge trees and stones, and with shouts forced them into the water, so that the work, expected to continue half the campaign, was with rapid toil completed in a few days. *Brutus's* soldiers fell to the gate with resistless fury, it gave way at last with hideous crash — This great and good man, doing his duty to his country, received a mortal wound, and glorious fell in the cause of *Rome*, may his memory be ever dear to all lovers of liberty, learning and humanity! — This promise ought ever to embalm his memory — The queen of nations was torn by no foreign invader — *Rome* fell a sacrifice to her own sons, and was ravaged by her unnatural offspring. All the great men of the state all the good, all the holy, were openly murdered by the wickedest and worst. Little islands cover the harbour of *Brindisi*, and form the narrow outlet from the numerous creeks that compose its capacious port — At the appearance of *Brutus* and *Cassius* a shout of joy rent the heavens from the surrounding multitudes.

Such are the flowers which may be gathered by every hand in every part of this garden of eloquence. But having thus freely mentioned our Author's faults, it remains that we acknowledge his merit, and confess that this book is the work of a man of letters that it is full of events displayed with accuracy, and related with vivacity, and though it is sufficiently defective to crush the vanity of its Author, it is sufficiently entertaining to invite readers

## R E V I E W \*

OF

“FOUR LETTERS from Sir ISAAC  
 “NEWTON to Dr. BENTLEY, containing  
 “some Arguments in Proof of a DEITY.”

IT will certainly be required, that notice should be taken of a book, however small, written on such a subject, by such an author. Yet I know not whether these Letters will be very satisfactory, for they are answers to inquiries not published, and therefore, though they contain many positions of great importance, are, in some parts, imperfect and obscure, by their reference to Dr *Bentley's* Letters.

Sir *Isaac* declares, that what he has done is *due to nothing but industry and patient thought*; and indeed long consideration is so necessary in such abstruse inquiries, that it is always dangerous to publish the productions of great men, which are not known to have been designed for the press, and of which it is uncertain whether much patience and thought have been bestowed upon them. The principal question of these Letters gives occasion to observe how even the mind of *Newton* gains ground gradually upon darkness.

\* Literary Magazine, Vol. I. 1756, p. 89.

“ As

" As to your first query,' says he, " it seems to  
 " me, that if the matter of our sun and planets, and  
 " all the matter of the universe, were evenly scattered  
 " throughout all the heavens, and every particle had  
 " an innate gravity towards all the rest, and the whole  
 " space throughout which this matter was scattered,  
 " was but finite, the matter on the outside of this  
 " space would by its gravity tend towards all the  
 " matter on the inside, and by consequence fall down  
 " into the middle of the whole space, and there com-  
 " pose one great spherical mass. But if the matter  
 " was evenly disposed throughout an infinite space, it  
 " could never convene into one mass, but some of it  
 " would convene into one mass, and some into an  
 " other, so as to make an infinite number of great  
 " masses scattered at great distances from one to ano-  
 " ther throughout all that infinite space. And thus  
 " might the sun and fixed stars be formed, supposing  
 " the matter were of a lucid nature. But how the  
 " matter should divide itself into two sorts and that  
 " part of it which is fit to compose a shining body,  
 " should fall down into one mass and make a sun, and  
 " the rest, which is fit to compose an opaque body  
 " should coalesce, not into one great body like the  
 " shining matter but into many little ones, or if the  
 " sun at first were an opaque body like the planets, or  
 " the planets lucid bodies like the sun, how he alone  
 " should be changed into a shining body, whilst all  
 " they continue opaque, or all they be changed into  
 " opaque ones whilst he remains unchanged, I do  
 " not think more explicable by mere natural causes,  
 " but am forced to ascribe it to the counsel and  
 " contrivance of a voluntary agent."

The hypothesis of matter evenly disposed through infinite space, seems to labour with such difficulties, as makes it almost a contradictory supposition, or a supposition destructive of itself

*Matter evenly disposed through infinite space*, is either created or eternal, if it was created, it infers a Creator - if it was eternal, it had been from eternity *evenly spread through infinite space*; or it had been once coalesced in masses, and afterwards been diffused. Whatever state was first, must have been from eternity, and what had been from eternity could not be changed, but by a cause beginning to act as it had never acted before, that is, by the voluntary act of some external power. If matter infinitely and evenly diffused was a moment without coalition, it could never coalesce at all by its own power. If matter originally tended to coalesce, it could never be evenly diffused through infinite space. Matter being supposed eternal, there never was a time when it could be diffused before its conglobation, or conglobated before its diffusion.

This Sir Isaac seems by degrees to have understood for he says, in his second Letter, “ The reason  
 “ why matter evenly scattered through a finite space  
 “ would convene in the midst, you conceive the  
 “ same with me; but that there should be a central  
 “ particle, so accurately placed in the middle, as to  
 “ be always equally attracted on all sides, and thereby  
 “ continue without motion, seems to me a supposi-  
 “ tion fully as hard as to make the sharpest needle  
 “ stand upright upon its point on a looking-glass  
 “ For if the very mathematical centre of the central  
 “ particle be not accurately in the very mathema-  
 “ tical

"tical centre of the attractive power of the whole  
 "mass the particle will not be attracted equally on  
 "all sides And much harder is it to suppose all the  
 "particles in an infinite space should be so ac-  
 "curately poised one among another, as to stand still  
 "in a perfect equilibrium For I reckon this as  
 "hard as to make not one needle only, but an infinite  
 "number of them (so many as there are particles in an  
 "infinite space) stand accurately poised upon their  
 "points Yet I grant it possible, at least by a divine  
 "power, and if they were once to be placed, I  
 "agree with you that they would continue in that  
 "posture, without motion for ever, unless put into  
 "new motion by the same power When therefore I  
 "said, that matter evenly spread through all space,  
 "would convene by its gravity into one or more  
 "great masses I understand it of matter not resting  
 "in an accurate poise'

Let not it be thought irreverence to this great  
 name, if I observe, that by *matter evenly spread*  
 through infinite space, he now finds it necessary to  
 mean *matter not evenly spread* Matter *not evenly*  
*spread* will indeed convene, but it will convene as  
 soon as it exists And in my opinion this puzzling  
 question about matter is only, how *that could be that*  
*never could have been* or what a man thinks on when  
 he thinks of nothing

Turn matter on all sides make it eternal, or of late  
 production, finite or infinite there can be no regular  
 system produced but by a voluntary and meaning  
 agent This the great *Newton* always is crted and  
 this he asserts in the third letter, but proves in an  
 other manner, in a manner perhaps more happy and  
 conclusive

“ The hypothesis of deriving the frame of the  
 “ world by mechanical principles from matter evenly  
 “ spread through the heavens being inconsistent with  
 “ my system, I had considered it very little before  
 “ your letter put me upon it, and therefore trouble  
 “ you with a line or two more about it, if this comes  
 “ not too late for your use

“ In my former I represented that the diurnal ro-  
 “ tations of the planets could not be derived from  
 “ gravity, but required a divine arm to impress them  
 “ And though gravity might give the planets a mo-  
 “ tion of descent towards the sun, either directly, or  
 “ with some little obliquity, yet the transverse mo-  
 “ tions by which they revolve in their several orbs,  
 “ required the divine arm to impress them according  
 “ to the tangents of their orbs I would now add,  
 “ that the hypothesis of matter’s being at first evenly  
 “ spread through the heavens, is, in my opinion, in-  
 “ consistent with the hypothesis of innate gravity,  
 “ without a supernatural power to reconcile them,  
 “ and therefore it infers a Deity For if there be in-  
 “ nate gravity it is impossible now for the matter of  
 “ the earth, and all the planets and stars, to fly up  
 “ from them, and become evenly spread throughout  
 “ all the heavens, without a supernatural power;  
 “ and certainly that which can never be hereafter  
 “ without a supernatural power, could never be  
 “ heretofore without the same power.”

## R, E V, I, E, W,

OF

A JOURNAL of EIGHT DAYS JOURNEY,  
 from PORTSMOUTH to KINGSTON UPON THAMES,  
 through SOUTHAMPTON, WILTSHIRE &c with Mis-  
 cellaneous Thoughts, moral and religious, in Sixty  
 four Letters addresed to Two Ladies of the Partie  
 To which is added, An ESSAY on TEA, considered as  
 pernicious to Health, obstructing Industry, and impo-  
 verishing the Nation with an Account of its Growth,  
 and great Consumption in these Kingdoms, with severel  
 political Reflections, and Thoughts on Publick Love  
 in Thirty two Letters to Two Ladies By Mr H<sup>W</sup>

[From the Literary Magazine Vol. II. No. 1. 1756]

OUR readers may perhaps remember, that we  
 gave them a short account of this book, with  
 a letter extracted from it, in November 1756. The  
 author then sent us an injunction to forbear his work  
 till a second edition should appear: this prohibition  
 was rather too magistral, for an author is no longer  
 the sole master of a book which he has given to the  
 publick, yet he has been punctually obeyed: we  
 had

\* The short account is in these words: 'This book is gene-  
 rally known to be the work of Mr Han, a man who has  
 formerly travelled to a greater distance and whose travels have  
 been for several years in the hands of the publick. The author  
 has not printed it for sale but distributes it among his acquaint-  
 ance. It may be wondered how a large quarto should arise  
 from a ramble of eight days. The account of what he has seen  
 fills but a small part. We are told much that might have been  
 as well told without the journey. Digression starts from digres-  
 sion and one subject follows another with or without connexion.  
 It is said that those letters were not written to be printed: they  
 were printed, perhaps, only because they had been written. Of

had no desire to offend him, and if his character may be estimated by his book, he is a man whose failings may well be pardoned for his virtues.

The second edition is now sent into the world, *corrected and enlarged*, and yielded up by the author to the attacks of criticism. But he shall find in us no malignity of censure. We wish indeed, that among other corrections he had submitted his pages to the inspection of a grammarian, that the elegancies of one line might not have been disgraced by the improprieties of another, but with us to mean well is a degree of merit which overbalances much greater errors than impurity of style.

We have already given in our collections one of the letters, in which Mr *Hanway* endeavours to show, that the consumption of Tea is injurious to the interest of our country. We shall now endeavour to follow him regularly through all his observations on this modern luxury, but it can scarcely be candid, not to make a previous declaration, that he is to expect little justice from the author of this extract, a hardened and shameless Tea-drinker, who has for twenty years diluted his meals with only the infusion of this fascinating plant, whose kettle has scarcely time to cool, who with Tea amuses the evening, with Tea solaces the midnight, and with Tea welcomes the morning.

He begins by refuting a popular notion, that Bohea and Green Tea are leaves of the same shrub,  
gathered

such a book it imports little which part is first read, or first examined. For the entertainment of the present month, we have selected letters from a long and vehement invective against tea. Perhaps we may hereafter exhibit some of his descriptions, for we are far from thinking the relation less curious or useful, for being confined to our own country." C.

gathered at different times of the year. He is of opinion, that they are produced by different shrubs. The leaves of Tea are gathered in dry weather, then dried and curled over the fire in copper pans. The *Chinese* use little Green Tea, imagining that it hinders digestion and excites fevers. How it should have either effect is not easily discovered, and if we consider the innumerable prejudices which prevail concerning our own plants, we shall very little regard these opinions of the *Chinese* vulgar, which experience does not confirm.

When the *Chinese* drink Tea, they infuse it slightly, and extract only the more volatile parts, but though this seems to require great quantities at a time yet the author believes, perhaps only because he has an inclination to believe it, that the *English* and *Dutch* use more than all the inhabitants of that extensive empire. The *Chinese* drink it sometimes with acids, seldom with sugar, and this practice our author, who has no intention to find any thing right at home recommends to his countrymen.

The history of the rise and progress of Tea drinking is truly curious. Tea was first imported from *Holland* by the earls of *Irlington* and *Ossory*, in 1666 from then ladies the women of quality learned its use. Its price was then three pounds a pound, and continued the same to 1707. In 1715 we began to use Green Tea and the practice of drinking it descended to the lower class of the people. In 1720, the *French* began to send it hither by a clandestine commerce. From 1717 to 1726, we imported annually seven hundred thousand pounds. From 1732 to 1742 a million and two hundred thousand pounds were every year brought to *London*, in some years

afterwards three millions, and in 1755, near four millions of pounds, or two thousand tons, in which we are not to reckon that which is surreptitiously introduced, which perhaps is nearly as much. Such quantities are indeed sufficient to alarm us, it is at least worth inquiry, to know what are the qualities of such a plant, and what the consequences of such a trade.

He then proceeds to enumerate the mischiefs of Tea, and seems willing to charge upon it every mischief that he can find. He begins, however, by questioning the virtues ascribed to it, and denies that the crews of the *Chinese* ships are preserved in their voyage homewards from the scurvy by Tea. About this report I have made some inquiry, and though I cannot find that these crews are wholly exempt from scorbutick maladies, they seem to suffer them less than other mariners in any course of equal length. This I ascribe to the Tea, not as possessing any medicinal qualities, but as tempting them to drink more water, to dilute their salt food more copiously, and perhaps to forbear punch, or other strong liquors.

He then proceeds in the pathetick strain, to tell the ladies how, by drinking Tea, they injure their health, and, what is yet more dear, their beauty.

“ To what can we ascribe the numerous complaints which prevail? How many *sweet creatures* of your sex languish with a *weak digestion*, *low spirits*, *lassitudes*, *melancholy*, and twenty disorders, which in spite of the *faculty* have yet no names, except the general one of *nervous complaints*? Let them change their diet, and among other articles, leave off drinking Tea, it is more

“ then probable the greatest part of them will be  
 “ restored to health ’

“ Hot water is also very hurtful to the teeth  
 “ The *Chinese* do not drink their *Tea* so hot as we  
 “ do, and yet they have bad teeth This cannot  
 “ be ascribed entirely to *sugar*, for they use very  
 “ little, as already observed but we all know that  
 “ hot or cold things which *harm* the teeth destroy  
 “ them also If we drink less *Tea*, and used gentle  
 “ acids for the gums and teeth particularly *sour*  
 “ oranges, though we had a less number of *French*  
 “ dentists, I fancy this essential part of beauty  
 “ would be much better preserved 1 1 1

“ The women in the *United Provinces*, who sip  
 “ *Tea* from morning till night, are also remarkable  
 “ for bad teeth They also look pallid and  
 “ many are troubled with certain feminine disorders  
 “ arising from a relaxed habit The *Portuguese*  
 “ ladies, on the other hand, entertain with select  
 “ meats, and yet they have very good teeth but  
 “ their food in general is more of a starchy and  
 “ vegetable kind than ours They also drink cold  
 “ water instead of sipping hot and never taste any  
 “ fermented liquors, for these reasons the use of sugar  
 “ does not seem to be at all pernicious to them 1

“ Men seem to have lost their stature and comeli-  
 “ ness, and women their beauty I am not young,  
 “ but methinks there is not quite so much beauty  
 “ in this land as there was Your very chamber  
 “ maids have lost their bloom, I suppose by sipping  
 “ *Tea* Even the agitations of the passions at cards  
 “ are not so great enemies to female charms What  
 “ *Shakespeare* ascribes to the concealment of love;

“ is *in this age* more frequently occasioned by the  
 “ use of *Tea* ”

To raise the flight still higher, he quotes an account of a pig's tail scalded with Tea, on which however he does not much insist

Of these dreadful effects, some are perhaps imaginary, and some may have another cause. That there is less beauty in the present race of females, than in those who entered the world with us, all of us are inclined to think on whom beauty has ceased to smile; but our fathers and grandfathers made the same complaint before us, and our posterity will still find beauties irresistibly powerful

That the diseases commonly called nervous, tremors, fits, habitual depression, and all the maladies which proceed from laxity and debility, are more frequent than in any former time, is, I believe, true, however deplorable. But this new race of evils will not be expelled by the prohibition of Tea. This general languor is the effect of general luxury, of general idleness. If it be most to be found among Tea-drinkers, the reason is, that Tea is one of the stated amusements of the idle and luxurious. The whole mode of life is changed, every kind of voluntary labour, every exercise that strengthened the nerves, and hardened the muscles, is fallen into disuse. The inhabitants are crowded together in populous cities, so that no occasion of life requires much motion, every one is near to all that he wants; and the rich and delicate seldom pass from one street to another, but in carriages of pleasure. Yet we eat and drink, or strive to eat and drink, like the hunters and huntresses, the farmers and the house-  
 wives

wives of the former generation and they that pass ten hours in bed, and eight at cards and the greater part of the other six at the table are taught to impute to Tea all the diseases which a life unnatural in all its parts may chance to bring upon them

Tea, among the greater part of those who use it most, is drunk in no great quantity As it neither exhilarates the heart, nor stimulates the palate, it is commonly an entertainment merely nominal, a pretence for assembling to prattle, for interrupting business, or diversifying idleness They who drink one cup, and who drink twenty, are equally punctual in preparing or partaking it, and indeed there are few but discover by their indifference about it that they are brought together not by the Tea, but the Tea table Three cups make the common quantity, so slightly impregnated that perhaps they might be tinged with the *Athenian cicuta*, and produce less effects than these Letters charge upon Tea

Our author proceeds to show yet other bad qualities of this hated leaf

“Green Tea, when made strong even by infusion,  
“is an *emetick*, and, I am told it is used as such in  
“*China*, a decoction of it, certainly performs this  
“operation yet by long use it is drunk by many  
“without such an effect The infusion also, when  
“it is made strong and stands long, to draw the  
“grosser particles, will *convulse* the bowels even  
“in the manner *commonly* used, it has this effect on  
“some constitutions, as I have already remarked to  
“you from my *own experience*

“You see I confess my *weakness* without reserve  
“but those who are very fond of Tea, if their diges-

“tion

" tion is weak, and they find themselves disor-  
 " dered, they generally ascribe it to any *cause* ex-  
 " cept the *true* one I am aware that the effect just  
 " mentioned is imputed to the hot water, let it be  
 " so, and my argument is still good. but who pre-  
 " tends to say it is not *partly* owing to particular  
 " kinds of Tea? perhaps such as partake of *copperas*,  
 " which there is cause to apprehend is sometimes  
 " the case. if we judge from the manner in which it  
 " is said to be cured, together with its ordinary  
 " effects, there is some foundation for this opinion  
 " Put a drop of strong Tea, either *Green* or *Bohea*,  
 " but chiefly the former, on the blade of a knife,  
 " though it is not corrosive in the same manner as  
 " vitriol, yet there appears to be a corrosive quality  
 " in it, very different from that of fruit which stains  
 " the knife"

He afterwards quotes *Paulli* to prove that Tea is a  
*desiccative*, and ought not to be used after the fortieth  
 year. I have then long exceeded the limits of per-  
 mission, but I comfort myself, that all the enemies  
 of Tea cannot be in the right. If Tea be desiccative,  
 according to *Paulli*, it cannot weaken the fibres, as  
 our author imagines; if it be *emetick*, it must con-  
 stringe the stomach, rather than relax it.

The formidable quality of tinging the knife, it has  
 in common with acorns, the bark and leaves of oak,  
 and every astringent bark or leaf. the *copperas*  
 which is given to the Tea, is really in the knife. Ink  
 may be made of any ferrugineous matter and astrin-  
 gent vegetable, as it is generally made of galls and  
 copperas.

From

From Tea the writer digresses to spirituous liquors, about which he will have no controversy with the Literary Magazine, we shall therefore insert almost his whole letter, and add to it one testimony, that the mischiefs arising on every side from this compendious mode of drunkenness, are enormous and insupportable, equally to be found among the great and the mean, filling places with disquiet and distraction, harder to be born as it cannot be mentioned, and overwhelming multitudes with incurable diseases and unpitied poverty

“ Though *Tia* and *Gin* have spread their baneful  
 “ influence over this island and his Majesty’s other  
 “ dominions, yet you may be well assured, that the  
 “ Governors of the Foundling Hospital will exert  
 “ their utmost skill and vigilance, to prevent the  
 “ children under their care from being poisoned, or  
 “ enervated by one or the other This, however,  
 “ is not the case of *workhouses* it is well known,  
 “ to the shame of those who are charged with the  
 “ care of them, that *gin* has been too often permitted  
 “ to enter their gates, and the debauched appetites  
 “ of the people who inhabit these houses, has been  
 “ urged as a reason for it

“ *Desperate* diseases require *desperate* remedies  
 “ if laws are rigidly executed against murderers in  
 “ the highway, those who provide a draught of gin,  
 “ which we see is *murderous*, ought not to be coun-  
 “ tenanced I am now informed that in certain hos-  
 “ pitals, where the number of the *sick* used to be  
 “ about 5,600 in 14 years,

“ From 1701 to 1718, they increased to 8,189

“ From

“ From 1718 to 1734, still augmented to 12,7104

“ And from 1734 to 1749, *multiplied* to 38,117.

“ What a dreadful *spectre* does this exhibit ! nor  
 “ must we wonder, when satisfactory evidence was  
 “ given before the great council of the nation, that  
 “ near eight millions of gallons of distilled spirits, at  
 “ the standard it is commonly reduced to for drink-  
 “ ing, was actually consumed annually in diam<sup>s</sup> ! the  
 “ shocking difference in the numbers of the *sick*, and  
 “ we may presume of the *dead* also, was supposed to  
 “ keep pace with *gin* : and the most ingenious and  
 “ unprejudiced physicians ascribed it to this cause  
 “ What is to be done under these melancholy cir-  
 “ cumstances ? shall we still countenance the *distil-*  
 “ *lery*, for the sake of the *revenue*, out of tenderness  
 “ to the *few* who will suffer by its being abolished,  
 “ for fear of the madness of the people, or that fo-  
 “ reigners will run it in upon us ? There can be no *evil*  
 “ so great as that we now suffer, except the making  
 “ the same consumption, and paying for it to foreign-  
 “ ers in *money*, which I hope never will be the case

“ As to the *revenue*, it certainly may be replaced  
 “ by taxes upon the *necessaries* of life, even upon the  
 “ *bread we eat*, or in other words, upon the *land*,  
 “ which is the great source of supply to the *publick*  
 “ and to *individuals* Nor can I persuade myself,  
 “ but that the people may be *weaned* from the habit  
 “ of poisoning themselves. The difficulty of *smug-*  
 “ *gling* a bulky *liquid*, joined to the severity which  
 “ *ought* to be exercised towards smugglers, whose  
 “ *illegal* commerce is of so *infernal* a nature, must in  
 “ time

" time produce the effect desired Spirituous li-  
 " quors being abolished, instead of having the most  
 " undisciplined and abandoned poor, we might  
 " soon boast a race of men, temperate, religious, and  
 " industrious even to a *proverb* We should soon  
 " see the *ponderous* burden of the *poor's rate* de-  
 " crease, and the *beauty* and *strength* of the land  
 " rejuvenate Schools, workhouses, and hospitals  
 " might then be sufficient to clear our streets of  
 " distress and misery, which never will be the  
 " case whilst the love of poison prevails, and the  
 " means of ruin is sold in above one thousand  
 " houses in the *city of London*, two thousand two  
 " hundred in *Westminster*, and one thousand nine  
 " hundred and thirty in *Holborn* and *St Giles*

" But if other uses still demand *liquid fire*, I  
 " would really propose, that it should be sold only  
 " in quart bottles, sealed up with the King's seal  
 " with a very high duty, and none sold without  
 " being mixed with a *strong emetick*

" Many become objects of charity, by their  
 " *intemperance*, and this excludes others who are  
 " such by the unavoidable accidents of life, or who  
 " cannot by any means support themselves Hence  
 " it appears, that the introducing *new habits* of life  
 " is the most substantial charity, and that the regu-  
 " lation of charity schools hospitals and workhouses  
 " not the augmentation of their number, can make  
 " them answer the wise ends for which they were  
 " instituted

" The children of beggars should be also taken  
 " from them, and bred up to labour, as children of  
 " the

“ the publick    Thus the *distressed* might be relieved,  
 “ at a sixth part of the present expence, the idle be  
 “ compelled to *work* or *starve*, and the *mad* be sent to  
 “ *Bedlam*    We should not see human-nature disgraced  
 “ by the aged, the maimed, the sickly, and young  
 “ children begging their bread, nor would compas-  
 “ sion be abused by those who have reduced it to an  
 “ *art* to catch the unwary    Nothing is wanting but  
 “ common sense and *honesty* in the execution of *laws*

“ To prevent such abuse in the *streets*, seems more  
 “ practicable than to abolish *bad habits within doors*,  
 “ where *greater* numbers perish    We see in many  
 “ familiar instances the fatal effects of example.  
 “ The careless spending of time among *servants*,  
 “ who are charged with the care of infants, is often  
 “ fatal; the nurse frequently destroys the child! the  
 “ poor infant being left neglected, expires whilst she  
 “ is sipping her *Tèa*! This may appear to you as  
 “ *rank prejudice* or *jest*, but I am assured, from the  
 “ most *indubitable* evidence, that many very extraor-  
 “ dinary cases of this kind have *really* happened  
 “ among those whose *duty* does not permit of such  
 “ kind of habits

“ It is partly from such causes, that nurses of the  
 “ children of the *publick* often *forget* themselves, and  
 “ become *impatient* when infants cry · the next step  
 “ to this, is using extraordinary means to quiet  
 “ them    I have already mentioned the term *killing*  
 “ *nurse* as known in some workhouses    *Venice trea-*  
 “ *cle*, *poppy water*, and *Godfrey’s cordial*, have been  
 “ the *kind* instruments of lulling the child to his *ever-*  
 “ *lasting* rest.    If these *pious* women could send up  
 “ an

“ an ejaculation when the child expired, all was  
 “ *well*, and no questions asked by the *superiours* An  
 “ ingenious friend of mine informs me that this has  
 “ been so often the case, in some workhouses that  
 “ *Venice* treacle has acquired the appellation of *the*  
 “ *Lord have mercy upon me*, in allusion to the nurses  
 “ *hackneyed* expression of *pretended* grief when  
 “ infants expire! *Fare well!*

I know not upon what observation Mr *Hanway* founds his confidence in the Governours of the *Foundling Hospital*, men of whom I have not any knowledge, but whom I entreat to consider a little the minds as well as bodies of the children I am inclined to believe Irreligion equally pernicious with Gin and Tea, and therefore think it not unseasonable to mention that when a few months ago I wandered through the *Hospital*, I found not a child that seemed to have heard of his creed or the commandments To breed up children in this manner is to rescue them from an early grave, that they may find employment for the gibbet, from dying in innocence, that they may perish by their crimes

HAVING considered the effects of Tea upon the health of the drinker, which I think he has aggravated in the vehemence of his zeal, and which, after soliciting them by this watery luxury, year after year, I have not yet felt he proceeds to examine how it may be shown to affect our interest and first calculates the national loss by the time spent in drinking Tea I have no desire to appear captious and shall therefore readily admit, that Tea is a liquor not proper for the lower classes of the people, as it supplies no strength to labour, or relief

to disease, but gratifies the taste without nourishing the body. It is a barren superfluity, to which those who can hardly procure what nature requires, cannot prudently habituate themselves. Its proper use is to amuse the idle, and relax the studious, and dilute the full meals of those who cannot use exercise, and will not use abstinence. That time is lost in this insipid entertainment, cannot be denied, many tittle away at the Tea-table those moments which would be better spent, but that any national detriment can be inferred from this waste of time, does not evidently appear, because I know not that any work remains undone for want of hands. Our manufactures seem to be limited, not by the possibility of work, but by the possibility of sale.

His next argument is more clear. He affirms, that one hundred and fifty thousand pounds in silver are paid to the *Chinese* annually, for three millions of pounds of Tea, and that for two millions more brought clandestinely from the neighbouring coasts, we pay, at twenty pence a pound, one hundred sixty-six thousand six hundred and sixty-six pounds. The author justly conceives, that this computation will waken us, for, says he, "The loss  
 " of health, the loss of time, the injury of morals,  
 " are not very sensibly felt by some, who are  
 " alarmed when you talk of the loss of money." But he excuses the *East-India* Company, as men not obliged to be political arithmeticians, or to inquire so much what the nation loses, as how themselves may grow rich. It is certain, that they who drink Tea have no right to complain of those that import it, but if Mr. *Hanway's* computation be  
 just,

just, the importation and the use of it ought at once to be stopped by a penal law

The author allows one slight argument in favour of Tea, which, in my opinion, might be with far greater justice urged both against that and many other parts of our naval trade “ The Tea Trade “ employs (he tells us) six ships, and five or six hundred seamen, sent annually to *China* It likewise “ brings in a revenue of three hundred and sixty “ thousand pounds, which is a tax on luxury, may “ be considered as of great utility to the state The utility of this tax I cannot find, a tax on luxury is no better than another tax unless it hinders luxury, which cannot be said of the impost upon Tea, while it is thus used by the great and the mean, the rich and the poor The truth is, that by the loss of one hundred and fifty thousand pounds, we procure the means of shifting three hundred and sixty thousand at best, only from one hand to another, but perhaps sometimes into hands by which it is not very honestly employed Of the five or six hundred seamen sent to *China*, I am told that sometimes half, commonly a third part, perish in the voyage, so that instead of setting this navigation against the inconveniencies already alleged we may add to them the yearly loss of two hundred men in the prime of life, and reckon that the trade of *China* has destroyed ten thousand men since the beginning of this century

If Tea be thus pernicious, if it impoverishes our country, if it raises temptation, and gives opportunity to illicit commerce, which I have always looked on as one of the strongest evidences of the

inefficacy of our law, the weakness of our government, and the corruption of our people, let us at once resolve to prohibit it for ever

“ If the *question* was, how to promote industry  
 “ most *advantageously*, in lieu of our Tea-trade, sup-  
 “ posing every branch of our commerce to be already  
 “ fully supplied with men and money ? If a *quarter*  
 “ the sum now spent in Tea, were laid out annually  
 “ in plantations, in making publick gardens, in  
 “ paving and widening streets, in making *roads*,  
 “ in rendering *rivers* navigable, erecting *palaces*,  
 “ building *bridges*, or neat and convenient *houses*  
 “ where are now only *huts*, *draining* lands, or ren-  
 “ dering those which are now *barren* of some *use* ;  
 “ should we not be gainers, and provide more for  
 “ health, pleasure, and long life, compared with the  
 “ consequences of the Tea-trade ? ”

Our riches would be much better employed to these purposes, but if this project does not please, let us first resolve to save our money, and we shall afterwards very easily find ways to spend it.

## R E P L Y

TO

## A PAPER

In the *GAZETTEER* of May 26, 1757\*

**I**T is observed in the sage *Gil Blas*, that an exasperated author is not easily pacified. I have therefore, very little hope of making my peace with the writer of the *Eight Days Journey*—indeed so little, that I have long deliberated whether I should not rather sit silently down under his displeasure, than aggravate my misfortune by a defence of which my heart forebodes the ill success. Deliberation is often useless. I am afraid that I have at last made the wrong choice, and that I might better have resigned my cause, without a struggle, to time and fortune, since I shall run the hazard of a new offence, by the necessity of asking him *why he is angry*.

Distress and terrour often discover to us those faults with which we should never have reproached ourselves in a happy state. Yet, dejected as I am, when I review the transaction between me and this writer, I cannot find that I have been deficient in reverence. When his book was first printed, he hints that I procured a sight of it before it was published. How the sight of it was procured I

\* From the *Literary Magazine*, Vol II Page 53

do not now very exactly remember, but if my curiosity was greater than my prudence, if I laid rash hands on the fatal volume, I have surely suffered like him who burst the box from which evil rushed into the world

I took it, however, and inspected it as the work of an author not higher than myself; and was confirmed in my opinion, when I found that these letters were *not written to be printed*. I concluded, however, that though *not written to be printed*, they were *printed to be read*, and inserted one of them in the collection of *November* last. Not many days after I received a note, informing me, that I ought to have waited for a more correct edition. This injunction was obeyed. The edition appeared, and I supposed myself at liberty to tell my thoughts upon it, as upon any other book, upon a royal manifesto, or an act of parliament. But see the fate of ignorant temerity! I now find, but find too late, that instead of a writer whose only power is in his pen, I have irritated an important member of an important corporation; a man who, as he tells us in his letters, puts horses to his chariot.

It was allowed to the disputant of old to yield up the controversy with little resistance to the master of forty legions. Those who know how weakly naked truth can defend her advocates, would forgive me if I should pay the same respect to a Governour of the Foundlings. Yet the consciousness of my own rectitude of intention incites me to ask once again, how I have offended.

There are only three subjects upon which my unlucky pen has happened to venture. Tea, the  
 Author

Author of the Journal, and the Foundling Hospital

Of Tea what have I said? That I have drank it twenty years without hurt, and therefore believe it not to be poison that if it dries the fibres, it cannot soften them, that if it constricts, it cannot relax. I have modestly doubted whether it has diminished the strength of our men, or the beauty of our women, and whether it much hinders the progress of our woollen or iron manufactures, but I allowed it to be a barren superfluity, neither medicinal nor nutritious, that neither supplied strength nor cheerfulness, neither relieved weariness nor exhilarated sorrow. I inserted, without charge or suspicion of falsehood, the sums exported to purchase it, and proposed a law to prohibit it for ever.

Of the Author I unfortunately said, that his injunction was somewhat too magisterial. This I said before I knew that he was a Governour of the Foundlings, but he seems inclined to punish this failure of respect, as the czar of *Muscovy* made war upon *Sweden*, because he was not treated with sufficient honours when he passed through the country in disguise. Yet was not this irreverence without extenuation. Something was said of the merit of *meaning well*, and the Journalist was declared to be a man *whose failings might well be pardoned for his virtues*. This is the highest praise which human gratitude can confer upon human merit: praise that would have more than satisfied *Titus* or *Augustus*, but which I must own to be inadequate and penurious, when offered to the member of an important corporation.

I am asked whether I meant to satirize the man or criticise the writer, when I say that *he believes, only perhaps because he has inclination to believe it, that the English and Dutch consume more Tea than the vast empire of China*? Between the writer and the man I did not at that time consider the distinction. The writer I found not of more than mortal might, and I did not immediately recollect that the man put horses to his chariot. But I did not write wholly without consideration. I knew but two causes of belief, evidence and inclination. What evidence the Journalist could have of the *Chinese* consumption of Tea, I was not able to discover. The officers of the *East-India* Company are excluded, they best know why, from the towns and the country of *China*, they are treated as we treat gypsies and vagrants, and obliged to retire every night to their own hovel. What intelligence such travellers may bring is of no great importance. And though the missionaries boast of having once penetrated further, I think they have never calculated the Tea drank by the *Chinese*. There being thus no evidence for his opinion, to what could I ascribe it but to inclination?

I am yet charged more heavily for having said, that *he has no intention to find any thing right at home*. I believe every reader restrained this imputation to the subject which produced it, and supposed me to insinuate only that he meant to spare no part of the Tea-table, whether essence or circumstance. But this line he has selected as an instance of virulence and acrimony, and confutes it by a lofty and splendid panegyrick on himself. He asserts,  
that

that he finds many things right at home, and that he loves his country almost to enthusiasm

I had not the least doubt that he found in his country many things to please him, nor did I suppose that he desired the same immersion of every part of life, as of the use of Tea. The proposal of drinking Tea soon showed indeed such a disposition to practical paradoxes, that there was reason to fear lest some succeeding letter should recommend the dress of the *Picts*, or the cookery of the *Eskimaux*. However, I met with no other innovations, and therefore was willing to hope that he found something right at home.

But his love of his country seemed not to rise quite to enthusiasm, when, amidst his rage against Tea he made a smooth apology for the *East India Company*, as men who might not think themselves obliged to be political arithmeticians. I hold though no enthusiastick patriot, that every man who lives and trades under the protection of a community, is obliged to consider whether he hurts or benefits those who protect him, and that the most which can be indulged to private interest is a neutral traffick, if any such can be, by which our country is not injured, though it may not be benefited.

But he now renews his declamation against Tea, notwithstanding the greatness or power of those that have interest or inclination to support it. I know not of what power or greatness he may dream. The importers only have an interest in defending it. I am sure they are not great, and I hope they are not powerful. Those whose inclination leads them to continue this practice, are too numerous, but I believe

lieve their power is such, as the Journalist may defy without enthusiasm. The love of our country, when it rises to enthusiasm, is an ambiguous and uncertain virtue. when a man is enthusiastick, he ceases to be reasonable, and when he once departs from reason, what will he do but drink sou Tea? As the Journalist, though enthusiastically zealous for his country, has, with regard to smaller things, the placid happiness of philosophical indifference, I can give him no disturbance by advising him to restrain even the love of his country within due limits, lest it should sometimes swell too high, fill the whole capacity of his soul, and leave less room for the love of truth.

Nothing now remains but that I review my positions concerning the Foundling Hospital. What I declared last month, I declare now once more, that I found none of the children that appeared to have heard of the catechism. It is inquired how I wandered, and how I examined? There is doubtless subtilty in the question, I know not well how to answer it. Happily I did not wander alone; I attended some ladies with another gentleman, who all heard and assisted the inquiry with equal grief and indignation. I did not conceal my observations. Notice was given of this shameful defect soon after, at my request, to one of the highest names of the society. This I am now told is incredible, but since it is true, and the past is out of human power, the most important corporation cannot make it false. But why is it incredible? Because in the rules of the hospital the children are ordered to learn the rudiments of religion. Orders are easily made,  
but

but they do not execute themselves. They say their catechism, at stated times, under an able master. But this able master was, I think, not elected before last *February*, and my visit happened, if I mistake not, in *November*. The children were shy when interrogated by a stranger. This may be true, but the same shyness I do not remember to have hindered them from answering other questions, and I wonder why children so much accustomed to new spectators should be eminently shy.

My opponent in the first paragraph calls the inference that I made from this negligence, a hasty conclusion. To the decency of this expression I had nothing to object. But as he grew hot in his career, his enthusiasm began to sparkle, and in the vehemence of his postscript, he charges my assertions, and my reasons for advancing them, with folly and malice. His argumentation being somewhat enthusiastic, I cannot fully comprehend, but it seems to stand thus: my insinuations are foolish or malicious, since I know not one of the Governors of the Hospital, for he that knows not the Governors of the Hospital, must be very foolish or malicious.

He has, however, so much kindness for me, that he advises me to consult my safety when I talk of corporations. I know not what the most important corporation can do, becoming manhood, by which my safety is endangered. My reputation is safe, for I can prove the fact. My quiet is safe, for I meant well, and for any other safety, I am not used to be very solicitous.

I am always sorry when I see any being labouring in vain, and in return for the Journalist's attention



## R E V I E W \*

OF

“ A N E S S A Y

“ On the WRITINGS and GENIUS of POPE.”

THIS is a very curious and entertaining miscellany of critical remarks and literary history. Though the book promises nothing but observations on the writings of *Pope* yet no opportunity is neglected of introducing the character of any other writer, or the mention of any performance or event in which learning is interested. From *Pope*, however, he always takes his hint, and to *Pope* he returns again from his digressions. The facts which he mentions, though they are seldom anecdotes in a rigorous sense, are often such as are very little known, and such as will delight more readers than naked criticism.

As he examines the works of this great poet in an order nearly chronological, he necessarily begins with his pastorals, which considered as representations of any kind of life, he very justly censures, for there is in them a mixture of *Grecian* and *English*, of ancient and modern, images. *Windsor* is coupled with *Hybla*, and *Thames* with *Pactolus*. He then

\* From the Literary Magazine, 1756

compares

compares some passages which *Pope* has imitated or translated with the imitation or version, and gives the preference to the originals, perhaps not always upon convincing arguments

*Theocritus* makes his lover wish to be a bee, that he might creep among the leaves that form the chaplet of his mistress *Pope's* enamoured swain longs to be made the captive bird that sings in his fair one's bowel, that she might listen to his songs, and reward them with her kisses The critick prefers the image of *Theocritus* as more wild, more delicate, and more uncommon

It is natural for a lover to wish that he might be any thing that could come near to his lady But we more naturally desire to be that which she fondles and caresses, than that which she would avoid, at least would neglect The superiour delicacy of *Theocritus* I cannot discover, nor can indeed find, that either in the one or the other image there is any want of delicacy Which of the two images was less common in the time of the poet who used it, for on that consideration the merit of novelty depends, I think it is now out of any critick's power to decide.

He remarks, I am afraid with too much justice, that there is not a single new thought in the pastorals, and with equal reason declares, that their chief beauty consists in their correct and musical versification, which has so influenced the English ear, as to render every moderate rhymers harmonious

In his examination of the Messiah, he justly observes some deviations from the inspired author, which weaken the imagery, and dispirit the expression.

On *Windsor forest*, he declares, I think without proof, that descriptive poetry was by no means the excellence of *Pope*, he draws this inference from the few images introduced in this poem, which would not equally belong to any other place. He must inquire whether *Windsor forest* has in reality any thing peculiar.

The *Stag chase* is not, he says, so full, so animated, and so circumstantiated as *Somerville's*. Barely to say, that one performance is not so good as another, is to criticise with little exactness. But *Pope* has directed that we should in every work regard the author's end. The *Stag chase* is the main subject of *Somerville*, and might therefore be properly dilated into all its circumstances. In *Pope* it is only incidental, and was to be despatched in a few lines.

He makes a just observation, "that the description of the external beauties of nature is usually the first effect of a young genius before he hath studied nature and passions. Some of *Milton's* most early as well as most exquisite pieces are his *Lycidas*, *l Allegro*, and *Il Penseroso*, if we may except his ode on the *Nativity of CHRIST*, which is indeed prior in order of time, and in which a penetrating critic might have observed the seeds of that boundless imagination which was one day to produce the *Paradise Lost*."

Mentioning *Thomson* and other descriptive poets, he remarks that writers fail in their copies for want of acquaintance with originals, and justly ridicules those who think they can form just ideas of valleys, mountains, and rivers, in a garret of the Strand. For this reason I cannot regret with this author that *Pope* laid aside his design of writing *American pastorals*,

torials ; for as he must have painted scenes which he never saw, and manners which he never knew, his performance, though it might have been a pleasing amusement of fancy, would have exhibited no representation of nature or of life

After the pastorals, the critic considers the lyric poetry of *Pope*, and dwells longest on the ode of *St Cecilia's* day, which he, like the rest of mankind, places next to that of *Dryden*, and not much below it. He remarks after *Mr Spence*, that the first stanza is a perfect concert. The second he thinks a little flat, he justly commends the fourth, but without notice of the best line in that stanza or in the poem :

Transported demi-gods stood round,  
And men grew heroes at the sound

In the latter part of the ode he objects to the stanza of triumph ;

Thus song could reveal, &c.

as written in a measure ridiculous and burlesque, and justifies his answer by observing that Addison uses the same numbers in the scene of Rosamond, between Grudeline and Sir Trusty :

How unhappy is he, &c.

That the measure is the same in both passages must be confessed, and both poets perhaps chose their numbers properly, for they both meant to express a kind of airy hilarity. The two passions of merriment and exultation are undoubtedly different ; they are as different as a gambol and a triumph, but each is a species of joy ; and poetical measures have not in any language been so far refined as to provide for the subdivisions of passion. They can only be adapted to  
2
general

general purposes, but the particular and minuter propriety must be sought only in the sentiment and language. Thus the numbers are the same in *Colin's Complaint*, and in the ballad of *Darby & Joan*, though in one sadness is represented, and in the other tranquillity, so the measure is the same of *Pope's Unfortunate Lady* and the *Praise of Voiture*.

He observes very justly, that the odes both of *Dryden* and *Pope* conclude unsuitably and unnaturally with epigram.

He then spends a page upon Mr *Handel's* music to *Dryden's* ode, and speaks of him with that regard which he has generally obtained among the lovers of sound. He finds something amiss in the air "With ravished ears, but has overlooked or forgotten the grossest fault in that composition, which is that in this line

Revenge revenge *Limothus* cries

He has laid much stress upon the two latter words, which are merely words of connection, and ought in music to be considered as parenthetical.

From this ode is struck out a digression on the nature of odes, and the comparative excellence of the ancients and moderns. He mentions the chorus which *Pope* wrote for the duke of *Buckingham*, and thence takes occasion to treat of the chorus of the ancients. He then comes to another ode of "The dying Christian to his Soul," in which finding an apparent imitation of *Flatman*, he falls into a pleasing and learned speculation on the resembling passages to be found in different poets.

He mentions with great regard *Pope's* ode on *Solitude*, written when he was but twelve years old,

but omits to mention the poem on *Silence*, composed, I think, as early, with much greater elegance of diction, musick of numbers, extent of observation, and force of thought. If he had happened to think on *Baillet's* chapter of *Enfans celebres*, he might have made on this occasion a very entertaining dissertation on early excellence.

He comes next to the *Essay on Criticism*, the stupendous performance of a youth not yet twenty years old, and after having detailed the felicities of condition, to which he imagines *Pope* to have owed his wonderful prematurity of mind, he tells us that he is well informed this essay was first written in prose. There is nothing improbable in the report, nothing indeed but what is more likely than the contrary, yet I\* cannot forbear to hint to this writer and all others, the danger and weakness of trusting too readily to information. Nothing but experience could evince the frequency of false information, or enable any man to conceive that so many groundless reports should be propagated as every man of eminence may hear of himself. Some men relate what they think as what they know; some men of confused memories and habitual inaccuracy ascribe to one man what belongs to another; and some talk on without thought or care. A few men are sufficient to broach falsehoods, which are afterwards innocently diffused by successive relaters.

He proceeds on examining passage after passage of  
this

\* In all the papers and criticisms Dr *Johnson* wrote for the *Literary Magazine*, he frequently departs from the customary use of anonymous writers. This, with his inimitable style, soon pointed him out as the principal person concerned in that publication.

this essay, but we must pass over all these criticisms to which we have not something to add or to object, or where this author does not differ from the general voice of mankind. We cannot agree with him in his censure of the comparison of a student advancing in science with a traveller passing the Alps, which is perhaps the best simile in our language, that in which the most exact resemblance is traced between things in appearance utterly unrelated to each other. That the last line conveys no new *idea*, is not true, it makes particular what was before general. Whether the description which he adds from another author be, as he says, more full and striking than that of *Pope*, is not to be inquired. *Pope's* description is relative, and can admit no greater length than is usually allowed to a simile, nor any other particulars than such as form the correspondence.

Unvaried rhymes, says this writer, highly disgust readers of a good ear. It is surely not the ear but the mind that is offended. The fault arising from the use of common rhymes is, that by reading the past line the second may be guessed, and half the composition loses the grace of novelty.

On occasion of the mention of an alexandrine, the critic observes, that "the alexandrine may be thought a modern measure, but that *Robert of Gloucester's* *Life* is an alexandrine, with the addition of two syllables, and that Sternhold and Hopkins translated the psalms in the same measure of fourteen syllables, though they are printed otherwise."

This seems not to be accurately conceived or expressed. an alexandrine with the addition of two syllables, is no more an alexandrine than with the

detraction of two syllables. Sternhold and Hopkins did generally write in the alternate measure of eight and six syllables; but Hopkins commonly rhymed the first and third, Sternhold only the second and fourth. so that Sternhold may be considered as writing couplets of long lines; but Hopkins wrote regular stanzas. From the practice of printing the long lines of fourteen syllables in two short lines, arose the license of some of our poets, who, though professing to write in stanzas, neglected the rhymes of the first and third lines.

*Pope* has mentioned *Petronius* among the great names of criticism, as the remarker justly observes without any critical merit. It is to be suspected that *Pope* had never read his book, and mentioned him on the credit of two or three sentences which he had often seen quoted, imagining that where there was so much there must necessarily be more. Young men in haste to be renowned, too frequently talk of books which they have scarcely seen.

The revival of learning mentioned in this poem, affords an opportunity of mentioning the chief periods of literary history, of which this writer reckons five; that of *Alexander*, of *Ptolemy Philadelphus*, of *Augustus*, of *Leo the Tenth*, of *Queen Anne*.

These observations are concluded with a remark which deserves great attention, "In no polished nation, after criticism has been much studied, and the rules of writing established, has any very extraordinary book ever appeared."

The *Rape of the Lock* was always regarded by *Pope* as the highest production of his genius. On occasion of this work, the history of the comick hero is given; and we are told that it descended from

*Fassoni*

*Fasson* to *Boileau*, from *Boileau* to *Garth*, and from *Garth* to *Pope*. *Garth* is mentioned perhaps with too much honour, but all are confessed to be inferior to *Pope*. There is in his remarks on this work no discovery of any latent beauty, nor any thing subtle or striking, he is indeed commonly right, but has discussed no difficult question.

The next pieces to be considered are the *Verses to the Memory of an unfortunate Lady*, the *Prologue to Cato*, and *Epilogue to Jane Shore*. The first piece he commends. On occasion of the second he digresses according to his custom, into a learned dissertation on tragedies, and compares the *English* and *French* with the *Greek* stage. He justly censures *Cato* for want of action and of characters, but scarcely does justice to the sublimity of some speeches and the philosophical exactness in the sentiments. "The simile of mount *Atlas* and that of the *Numidian* traveller smothered in the sands, are indeed in character," says the critick, "but sufficiently obvious. The simile of the mountain is indeed common, but of that of the traveller I do not remember. That it is obvious is easy to say, and easy to deny. Many things are obvious when they are taught."

He proceeds to criticise the other works of *Addison*, till the epilogue calls his attention to *Rowe*, whose character he discusses in the same manner with sufficient freedom and sufficient candour.

The translation of the *Epistle of Sappho to Phaon* is next considered but *Sappho* and *Ovid* are more the subjects of this disquisition than *Pope*. We shall therefore pass over it to a piece of more importance the *Epistle of Eloisa to Abelard*, which may justly

be regarded as one of the works on which the reputation of *Pope* will stand in future times

The critic pursues *Eloisa* through all the changes of passion, produces the passages of her letters to which any allusion is made, and intersperses many agreeable particulars and incidental relations. There is not much profundity of criticism, because the beauties are sentiments of nature, which the learned and the ignorant feel alike. It is justly remarked by him, that the wish of *Eloisa* for the happy passage of *Abelard* into the other world, is formed according to the ideas of mystic devotion

These are the Pieces examined in this volume: whether the remaining part of the work will be one volume or more, perhaps the writer himself cannot yet inform us\*. This piece is, however, a complete work, so far as it goes, and the writer is of opinion that he has despatched the chief part of his task: for he ventures to remark, that the reputation of *Pope* as a poet, among posterity, will be principally founded on his *Windsor-Forest*, *Rape of the Lock*, and *Eloisa to Abelard*, while the facts and characters alluded to in his late writings will be forgotten and unknown, and their poignancy and propriety little relished, for wit and satire are transitory and perishable, but nature and passion are eternal

He has interspersed some passages of *Pope's* life, with which most readers will be pleased. When *Pope* was yet a child, his father, who had been a merchant in *London*, retired to *Binfield*. He was taught to read by an aunt, and learned to write without a master, by copying printed books. His father

\* The second volume of Dr. *Warton's* Essay was not published until the year 1782. C.

father used to order him to make *English* verses, and would oblige him to correct and retouch them over and over, and at last could say, "These are good rhymes"

At eight years of age he was committed to one *Taverner* a priest who taught him the rudiments of the *Latin* and *Greek*. At this time he met with *Ogleby's Homer*, which seized his attention he fell next upon *Sandy's Ovid*, and remembered these two translations with pleasure to the end of his life

About ten, being at school near *Hyde Park Corner*, he was taken to the play-house, and was so struck with the splendour of the drama, that he formed a kind of play out of *Ogleby's Homer*, intermixed with verses of his own. He persuaded the head boys to act this piece and *Ajax* was performed by his master's gardener. They were habited according to the pictures in *Ogleby*. At twelve he retired with his father to *Windsor-Forest*, and formed himself by study in the best *English* poets

In this extract it was thought convenient to dwell chiefly upon such observations as relate immediately to *Pope*, without deviating with the author into incidental inquiries. We intend to kindle, not to extinguish, curiosity, by this slight sketch of a work abounding with curious quotations and pleasing disquisitions. He must be much acquainted with literary history, both of remote and late times, who does not find in this essay many things which he did not know before and if there be any too learned to be instructed in facts or opinions, he may yet properly read this book as a just specimen of literary moderation

I N T R O D U C T I O N

T O T H E

P R O C E E D I N G S of the C O M M I T T E E

A P P O I N T E D T O M A N A G E T H E

C o n t r i b u t i o n s begun at *London*, Dec. 18, 1758,  
for clothing *French* Prisoners of War

THE Committee entrusted with the money contributed to the relief of the subjects of *France*, now prisoners in the *British* dominions, here lay before the publick an exact account of all the sums received and expended, that the donors may judge how properly their benefactions have been applied

Charity would lose its name, were it influenced by so mean a motive as human praise • it is therefore not intended to celebrate by any particular memorial, the liberality of single persons, or distinct societies; it is sufficient that their works praise them

Yet he who is far from seeking honour, may very justly obviate censure. If a good example has been set, it may lose its influence by misrepresentation; and to free charity from reproach, is itself a charitable action.

Against the relief of the *French* only one argument has been brought, but that one is so popular and specious, that if it were to remain unexamined,  
it

it would by many be thought irrefragable. It has been urged, that charity, like other virtues, may be improperly and unreasonably exerted, that while we are relieving *Frenchmen*, their remain many *Englishmen* unrelieved, that while we lavish pity on our enemies, we forget the misery of our friends.

Grant this argument all it can prove, and what is the conclusion?—That to relieve the *French* is a good action, but that a better may be conceived. This is all the result, and this all is very little. To do the best can seldom be the lot of man: it is sufficient if, when opportunities are presented, he is ready to do good. How little virtue could be practised, if beneficence were to wait always for the most proper objects and the noblest occasions, occasions that may never happen and objects that may never be found.

It is far from certain, that a single *Englishman* will suffer by the charity to the *French*. New scenes of misery make new impressions, and much of the charity which produced these donations, may be supposed to have been generated by a species of calamity never known among us before. Some imagine that the laws have provided all necessary relief in common cases, and remit the poor to the care of the publick: some have been deceived by fictitious misery and are afraid of encouraging imposture, many have observed want to be the effect of vice, and consider casual almsgivers as patrons of idleness. But all these difficulties vanish in the present case: we know that for the Prisoners of War there is no legal provision, we see their distress, and are certain of its cause, we know that they are poor

poor and naked, and poor and naked without a crime.

But it is not necessary to make any concessions. The opponents of this charity must allow it to be good, and will not easily prove it not to be the best. That charity is best, of which the consequences are most extensive. the relief of enemies has a tendency to unite mankind in fraternal affection; to soften the acrimony of adverse nations, and dispose them to peace and amity. in the mean time, it alleviates captivity, and takes away something from the miseries of war. The rage of war, however mitigated, will always fill the world with calamity and horror: let it not then be unnecessarily extended, let animosity and hostility cease together; and no man be longer deemed an enemy, than while his sword is drawn against us.

The effects of these contributions may, perhaps, reach still further. Truth is best supported by virtue. we may hope from those who feel or who see our charity, that they shall no longer detest as heresy that religion, which makes its professors the followers of Him, who has commanded us to “do good to them that hate us”

ON THE  
BRAVERY  
OF THE  
ENGLISH COMMON SOLDIERS\*

**B**Y those who have compared the military genius of the *English* with that of the *French* nation, it is remarked, that *the French officers will always lead, if the soldiers will follow*, and that *the English soldiers will always follow, if their officers will lead*.

In all pointed sentences, some degree of accuracy must be sacrificed to conciseness, and, in this comparison, our officers seem to lose what our soldiers gain. I know not any reason for supposing that the *English* officers are less willing than the *French* to lead; but it is, I think, universally allowed, that the *English* soldiers are more willing to follow. Our nation may boast, beyond any other people in the world, of a kind of epidemick bravery, diffused equally through all its ranks. We can show a peasantry of heroes, and fill our armies with clowns, whose courage may vie with that of their general.

There may be some pleasure in tracing the causes of this plebeian magnanimity. The qualities which  
commonly

\* This short paper was added to some editions of *The Idler* when collected into volumes but not by Dr *Johnson* as Mr *Bequell* asserts, nor to the early editions of that work. C

commonly make an army formidable, are long habits of regularity, great exactness of discipline, and great confidence in the commander. Regularity may, in time, produce a kind of mechanical obedience to signals and commands, like that which the perverse *Cartesians* impute to animals, discipline may impress such an awe upon the mind, that any danger shall be less dreaded than the danger of punishment, and confidence in the wisdom or fortune of the general, may induce the soldiers to follow him blindly to the most dangerous enterprise.

What may be done by discipline and regularity, may be seen in the troops of the *Russian* empress and *Prussian* monarch. We find that they may be broken without confusion, and repulsed without flight.

But the *English* troops have none of these requisites in any eminent degree. Regularity is by no means part of their character: they are rarely exercised, and therefore show very little dexterity in their evolutions as bodies of men, or in the manual use of their weapons as individuals, they neither are thought by others nor by themselves, more active or exact than their enemies, and therefore derive none of their courage from such imaginary superiority.

The manner in which they are dispersed in quarters over the country during times of peace, naturally produces laxity of discipline: they are very little in sight of their officers, and, when they are not engaged in the slight duty of the guard, are suffered to live every man his own way.

The.

The equality of *English* privileges, the impartiality of our laws, the freedom of our tenures, and the prosperity of our trade, dispose us very little to reverence of superiours. It is not to any great esteem of the officers that the *English* soldier is indebted for his spirit in the hour of battle, for perhaps it does not often happen that he thinks much better of his leader than of himself. The *French* count, who has lately published the *Art of War*, remarks how much soldiers are animated when they see all their dangers shared by those who were born to be their masters, and whom they consider as beings of a different rank. The *Englishman* despises such motives of courage. He was born without a master, and looks not on any man, however dignified by lace or titles, as deriving from nature any claims to his respect, or inheriting any qualities superiour to his own.

There are some, perhaps, who would imagine that every *Englishman* fights better than the subjects of absolute governments, because he has more to defend. But what has the *English* more than the *French* soldier? Property they are both commonly without. Liberty is, to the lowest rank of every nation, little more than the choice of working or starving, and this choice is, I suppose, equally allowed in every country. The *English* soldier seldom has his head very full of the constitution, nor has there been, for more than a century, any war that put the property or liberty of a single *Englishman* in danger.

Whence then is the courage of the *English* vulgar? It proceeds, in my opinion, from that dissolution

tion of dependence which obliges every man to regard his own character While every man is fed by his own hands, he has no need of any servile arts, he may always have wages for his labour; and is no less necessary to his employer, than his employer is to him While he looks for no protection from others, he is naturally roused to be his own protector, and having nothing to abate his esteem of himself, he consequently aspires to the esteem of others Thus every man that crowds our streets is a man of honour, disdainful of obligation, impatient of reproach, and desirous of extending his reputation among those of his own rank, and as courage is in most frequent use, the fame of courage is most eagerly pursued From this neglect of subordination I do not deny that some inconveniencies may from time to time proceed: the power of the law does not always sufficiently supply the want of reverence, or maintain the proper distinction between different ranks: but good and evil will grow up in this world together; and they who complain, in peace, of the insolence of the populace, must remember, that their insolence in peace is bravery in war

## CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

PLANS offered for the Construction of BLACK-  
FRIARS BRIDGE

IN THREE LETTERS, to the PRINTER of the GAZETTEER

## LETTER I

SIR,

Dec 1, 1759

THE Plans which have been offered by different architects, of different reputation and abilities, for the Construction of the Bridge intended to be built at *Black Friars* are by the rejection of the greater part, now reduced to a small number in which small number three are supposed to be much superiour to the rest, so that only three architects are now properly competitors for the honour of this great employment, *by two of whom are proposed semicircular and by the other elliptical arches*

The question is, therefore whether an elliptical or semicircular arch is to be preferred ?

The first excellence of a bridge built for commerce over a large river, is strength, for a bridge which cannot stand, however beautiful will boast its beauty but a little while, the stronger arch is therefore to be preferred, and much more to be preferred,

preferred, if with greater strength it has greater beauty

Those who are acquainted with the mathematical principles of architecture, are not many, and yet fewer are they who will, upon any single occasion, endure any labourous stretch of thought, or harass their minds with unaccustomed investigations. We shall therefore attempt to show the *weakness of the elliptical arch*, by arguments which appeal simply to common reason, and which will yet stand the test of geometrical examination

All arches have a certain degree of weakness. No hollow building can be equally strong with a solid mass, of which every upper part presses perpendicularly upon the lower. Any weight laid upon the top of an arch, has a tendency to force that top into the vacuity below, and the arch thus loaded on the top, stands only because the stones that form it, being wider in the upper than in the lower parts, that part that fills a wider space cannot fall through a space less wide, but the force which laid upon a flat would press directly downwards, is dispersed each way in a lateral direction, as the parts of a beam are pushed out to the right and left by a wedge driven between them. In proportion as the stones are wider at the top than at the bottom, they can less easily be forced downwards, and as their lateral surfaces tend more from the centre to each side, to so much more is the pressure directed laterally towards the piers, and so much less perpendicularly towards the vacuity

Upon this plain principle the semicircular arch may be demonstrated to excel in strength the elliptical arch, which approaching nearer to a straight line

must be constructed with stones whose diminution downwards is very little, and of which the pressure is almost perpendicular

It has yet been sometimes asserted by hardy ignorance that the elliptical arch is stronger than the semicircular, or in other terms, that any mass is more strongly supported the less it rests upon the supporters. If the elliptical arch be equally strong with the semicircular, that is if an arch, by approaching to a straight line, loses none of its stability, it will follow, that all arcuation is useless, and that the bridge may at last, without any inconvenience, consist of stone laid in straight lines from pillar to pillar. But if a straight line will bear no weight, which is evident at the first view, it is plain likewise, that an ellipse will bear very little, and that as the arch is more curved, its strength is increased

Having thus evinced the superiour strength of the semicircular arch, we have sufficiently proved, that it ought to be preferred, but to leave no objection unprevented, we think it proper likewise to observe, that the elliptical arch must always appear to want elevation and dignity, and that if beauty be to be determined by suffrages, the elliptical arch will have little to boast, since the only bridge of that kind has now stood *two hundred years without imitation*

If in opposition to these arguments, and in defiance at once of right reason and general authority the elliptical arch should at last be chosen, what will the world believe, than that some other motive than reason influenced the determination? And some degree of partiality cannot but be suspected by him, who has been told that one of the judges appointed

to decide this question, is Mr M *II* *r*, who having by ignorance or thoughtlessness, already preferred the elliptical arch, will probably think himself obliged to maintain his own judgment, though his opinion will avail but little with the publick, when it is known that Mr S *ps* *n* declares it to be false.

He that in the list of the committee chosen for the superintendency of the bridge, reads many of the most illustrious names of this great city, will hope that the greater number will have more reverence for the opinion of posterity, than to disgrace themselves; and the metropolis of the kingdom, in compliance with any man, who, instead of voting, assumes to dictate, perhaps without any claim to such superiority, either by greatness of birth, dignity of employment, extent of knowledge, or largeness of fortune.

## LETTER II.

SIR,

Dec. 8, 1759.

IN questions of general concern, there is no law of government, or rule of decency, that forbids open examination and publick discussion. I shall therefore not betray, by a mean apology, that right which no man has power, and, I suppose, no wise man has desire to refuse me, but shall consider the Letter published by you last *Friday*, in defence of Mr M *'s*\* design for a new bridge.

Mr M proposes elliptical arches. It has been objected that elliptical arches are weak: and therefore improper for a bridge of commerce, in a country where greater weights are ordinarily carried

\* Mr. Milne.

by land than perhaps in any other part of the world. First there is an elliptical bridge at *Florence* is allowed, but the objectors maintain, that its stability is so much doubted, *that carts* are not permitted to pass over it.

To this no answer is made, but that it was built for coaches, and if it had been built for carts it would have been made stronger. Thus all the controversialists agree, that the bridge is too weak for carts, and it is of little importance, whether carts are prohibited because the bridge is weak, or whether the architect, knowing that carts were prohibited voluntarily constructed a weak bridge. The instability of the elliptical arch has been sufficiently proved by argument, and *Armanuti's* attempt has proved it by example.

The iron rail, whether gilt or varnished appears to me unworthy of debate. I suppose every judicious eye will discern it to be minute and trifling equally unfit to make a part of a great design, whatever be its colour. I shall only observe how little the writer understands his own positions, when he recommends it to be cast in whole pieces from pier to pier. That non forged is stronger than iron cast every smith can inform him, and if it be cast in large pieces, the fracture of a single bar must be repaired by a new piece.

The abrupt rise, which is feared from firm circular arches, may be easily prevented by a little extension of the abutment at each end, which will take away the objection, and add almost nothing to the expense.

The whole of the argument in favour of Mr *M*, is only that there is an elliptical bridge at *Florence*,

and an iron balustrade at *Rome*, the bridge is owned to be weak, and the iron balustrade we consider as mean, and are loth that our own country should unite two follies in a publick work

The architrave of *Perault*, which has been pompously produced, bears nothing but its entablature; and is so far from owing its support to the artful section of the stone, that it is held together by cramps of iron; to which I am afraid Mr. *M* must have recourse, if he persists in his ellipsis, or, to use the words of his vindicator, forms his arch of four segments of circles drawn from four different centres

That Mr. *M* obtained the prize of the architecture at *Rome*, a few months ago, is willingly confessed; nor do his opponents doubt that he obtained it by deserving it. May he continue to obtain whatever he deserves; but let it not be presumed that a prize granted at *Rome*, implies an irresistible degree of skill. The competition is only between boys, and the prize given to excite laudable industry, not to reward consummate excellence. Nor will the suffrage of the *Romans* much advance any name among those who know, what no man of science will deny, that architecture has for some time degenerated at *Rome* to the lowest state, and that the Pantheon is now deformed by petty decorations

I am, SIR,

Yours, &c

## LETTER III

SIR,

Dec 15, 1759

IT is the common fate of erroneous positions, that they are betrayed by defence, and obscured by explanation that their authors deviate from the main question into incidental disquisitions, and raise a mist where they should let in light

Of all these concomitants of errors, the Letter of Dec 10, in favour of elliptical arches, has afforded examples A great part of it is spent upon digressions The writer allows, that *the first excellence of a bridge is undoubtedly strength*, but this concession affords him an opportunity of telling us, that strength or provision against decay, has its limits, and of mentioning the Monument and Cupola, without any advance towards evidence or argument

The *first excellence of a bridge* is now allowed to be *strength*, and it has been asserted, that a semi-ellipsis has less strength than a semicircle To this he first answers, that *granting this position for a moment*, the semi ellipsis may yet have strength sufficient for the purposes of commerce This grant, which was made but for a moment needed not to have been made at all, for before he concludes his Letter he undertakes to prove, that the *elliptical arch must in all respects be superiour in strength to the semicircle* For this daring assertion he made way by the intermediate paragraphs, in which he observes that *the convexity of a semi ellipsis may be increased at will to any degree that strength may*

require, which is, that an elliptical arch may be made less elliptical, to be made less weak; or that an arch, which by its elliptical form is superiour in strength to the semicircle, may become almost as strong as a semicircle, by being made almost semicircular

That the longer diameter of an ellipsis may be shortened, till it shall differ little from a circle, is indisputably true, but why should the writer forget the semicircle differs as little from such an ellipsis? It seems that the difference, whether small or great, is to the advantage of the semicircle, for he does not promise that the elliptical arch, with all the convexity that his imagination can confer, will stand without *cramps of iron*, and *molten lead*, and *large stones*, and a *very thick arch*, assistances which the semicircle does not require, and which can be yet less required by a semi-ellipsis, which is *in all respects superiour in strength*

Of a man who loves opposition so well, as to be thus at variance with himself, little doubt can be made of his contrariety to others, nor do I think myself entitled to complain of disregard from one, with whom the performances of antiquity have so *little weight* yet in defiance of all this contemptuous superiority, I must again venture to declare, that *a straight line will bear no weight*, being convinced, that not even the science of *Vasari* can make that form strong which the laws of nature have condemned to weakness. By the position, that *a straight line will bear nothing*, is meant, that *it receives no strength from straightness*, for that many bodies, laid in straight lines, will support weight  
by

by the cohesion of their parts every one has found, who has seen dishes on a shelf, or a thief upon the gallows. It is not denied, that stones may be so crushed together by enormous pressure on each side, that a heavy mass may safely be laid upon them but the strength must be derived merely from the lateral resistance, and the line so loaded will be itself part of the load.

The semi elliptical arch has one recommendation yet unexamined, we are told that it is difficult of execution. Why difficulty should be chosen for its own sake, I am not able to discover, but it must not be forgotten, that as the convexity is increased, the difficulty is lessened and I know not well whether this writer, who appears equally ambitious of difficulty and studious of strength, will wish to increase the convexity for the gain of strength, or to lessen it for the love of difficulty.

The friend of Mr M, however he may be mistaken in some of his opinions, does not want the appearance of reason, when he prefers facts to theories, and that I may not dismiss the question without some appeal to facts, I will borrow an example suggested by a great artist, and recommended to those who may still doubt which of the two arches is the stronger, to press an egg first on the ends, and then upon the sides.

I am, Sir,  
Yours, &c

# SOME THOUGHTS ON AGRICULTURE,

Both ANCIENT and MODERN :

With an Account of the Honour due to an  
ENGLISH FARMLER \*

AGRICULTURE, in the primeval ages, was the common parent of traffick, for the opulence of mankind then consisted in cattle, and the product of tillage; which are now very essential for the promotion of trade in general, but more particularly so to such nations as are most abundant in cattle, corn, and fruits. The labour of the Farmer gives employment to the manufacturer, and yields a support for the other parts of the community: it is now the spring which sets the whole grand machine of commerce in motion; and the sail could not be spread without the assistance of the plough. But, though the Farmers are of such utility in a state, we find them in general too much disregarded among the politer kind of people in the present age; while we cannot help observing the honour that

\* From the *Universal Visiter*, for *February* 1756, p. 59. *Smart*, the poet, had a considerable hand in this Miscellany. The very first sentence, however, may convince any reader that *Dr. Johnson* did not write these "Thoughts", they are inserted here merely as an introduction to "The Further Thoughts," which follow, and which are undoubtedly his. C.

that antiquity has always paid to the profession of the husbandman which naturally leads us into some reflections upon that occasion

Though mines of gold and silver should be exhausted, and the species made of them lost though diamonds and pearls should remain concealed in the bowels of the earth, and the womb of the sea, though commerce with strangers be prohibited, though all arts which have no other object than splendour and embellishment, should be abolished, yet the fertility of the earth alone would afford an abundant supply for the occasions of an industrious people, by furnishing subsistence for them and such armies as should be mustered in their defence We, therefore, ought not to be surprized, that Agriculture was in so much honour among the ancients for it ought rather to seem wonderful that it should ever cease to be so, and that the most necessary and most indispensable of all professions should have fallen into any contempt

Agriculture was in no part of the world in higher consideration than *Egypt*, where it was the particular object of government and policy nor was any country ever better peopled, richer, or more powerful The *Satrapæ* among the *Assyrians* and *Persians*, were rewarded, if the lands in their governments were well cultivated, but were punished if that part of their duty was neglected *Africa* abounded in corn, but the most famous countries were *Thrace*, *Sardinia*, and *Sicily*

*Cato*, the censor, has justly called *Sicily* the magazine and nursing mother of the *Roman* people, who were supplied from thence with almost all their  
corn,

corn, both for the use of the city, and the subsistence of her armies though we also find in *Livy*, that the *Romans* received no inconsiderable quantities of corn from *Sardinia*. But, when *Rome* had made herself mistress of *Carthage* and *Alexandria*, *Africa* and *Egypt* became her store-houses. For those cities sent such numerous fleets every year, freighted with corn to *Rome*, that *Alexandria* alone annually supplied twenty millions of bushels: and when the harvest happened to fail in one of these provinces, the other came in to its aid, and supported the metropolis of the world, which, without this supply, would have been in danger of perishing by famine. *Rome* actually saw herself reduced to this condition under *Augustus*, for there remained only three days provision of corn in the city and that prince was so full of tenderness for the people, that he had resolved to poison himself, if the expected fleets did not arrive before the expiration of that time, but they came, and the preservation of the *Romans* was attributed to the good fortune of their emperor; but wise precautions were taken to avoid the like danger for the future.

When the seat of empire was transplanted to *Constantinople*, that city was supplied in the same manner and when the emperor *Septimius Severus* died, there was corn in the publick magazines for seven years, expending daily 75000 bushels in bread, for 600,000 men.

The ancients were no less industrious in the cultivation of the vine than in that of corn, though they applied themselves to it later. for *Noah* planted it by order, and discovered the use that might be

made of the fruit, by pressing out and preserving the juice. The vine was carried by the old pruning of *Noah* into the several countries of the world—but *Asia* was the first to experience the sweets of this gift from whence it was imported to *Europe* and *Africa*, *Greece* and *Italy* which were distinguished in so many other respects, were particularly so by the excellency of their wines. *Greece* was most celebrated for the wines of *Cyprus*, *Lesbos*, and *Chio*, the former of which is in great esteem at present though the cultivation of the vine has been generally suppressed in the *Turkish* dominions. As the *Romans* were indebted to the *Greeks* for the arts and sciences, so were they likewise for the improvement of their wines, the best of which were produced in the country of *Capua* and were called the *Marsic*, *Calenian*, *Tornian*, *Cæcuban*, and *Falernian*, so much celebrated by *Horace*. *Domitian* passed an edict for destroying all the vines, and that no more should be planted throughout the greatest part of the west, which continued almost two hundred years afterwards, when the emperor *Probus* employed his soldiers in planting vines in *Europe* in the same manner as *Hannibal* had formerly employed his troops in planting olive trees in *Africa*. Some of the ancients have endeavoured to prove that the cultivation of vines is more beneficial than any other kind of husbandry but, if this was thought so in the time of *Columella*, it is very different at present, nor were all the ancients of his opinion, for several gave the preference to pasture lands.

The breeding of cattle has always been considered

as an important part of Agriculture The riches of *Abraham*, *Laban*, and *Job*, consisted in their flocks and herds We also find from *Latinus* in *Virgil*, and *Ulysses* in *Homer*, that the wealth of those princes consisted in cattle. It was likewise the same among the *Romans*, till the introduction of money, which put a value upon commodities, and established a new kind of barter. *Varro* has not disdained to give an extensive account of all the beasts that are of any use to the country, either for tillage, breed, carriage, or other conveniences of man And *Cato*, the censor, was of opinion, that the feeding of cattle was the most certain and speedy method of enriching a country.

Luxury, avarice, injustice, violence, and ambition, take up their ordinary residence in populous cities, while the hard and laborious life of the husbandman will not admit of these vices The honest Farmer lives in a wise and happy state, which inclines him to justice, temperance, sobriety, sincerity, and every virtue that can dignify human nature. This gave room for the poets to feign, that *Astræa*, the Goddess of Justice, had her last residence among husbandmen, before she quitted the earth. *Hesiod* and *Virgil* have brought the assistance of the Muses in praise of Agriculture. Kings, generals, and philosophers, have not thought it unworthy their birth, rank, and genius, to leave precepts to posterity upon the utility of the husbandman's profession. *Hiero*, *Attalus*, and *Archelaus*, kings of *Syracuse*, *Pergamus*, and *Cappadocia*, have composed books for supporting and augmenting the fertility of their different countries The *Carthaginian*



could we carry on our manufactures, or prosecute our commerce? We should look upon the *English Farmer* as the most useful member of society. His arable grounds not only supply his fellow-subjects with all kind of the best grain, but his industry enables him to export great quantities to other kingdoms, which might otherwise starve; particularly *Spain* and *Portugal*. for, in one year, there have been exported 51,520 quarters of barley, 219,781 of malt, 1,920 of oatmeal, 1,329 of rye, and 153,313 of wheat; the bounty on which amounted to 72,433 pounds. What a fund of treasure arises from his pasture lands, which breed such innumerable flocks of sheep, and afford such fine herds of cattle, to feed *Britons*, and cloath mankind! He rears flax, and hemp for the making of linen; while his plantations of apples and hops supply him with generous kinds of liquors.

The land-tax, when at four shillings in the pound, produces 2,000,000 pounds a year. This arises from the labour of the husbandman. It is a great sum: but how greatly is it increased by the means it furnishes for trade? Without the industry of the Farmer, the manufacturer could have no goods to supply the merchant, nor the merchant find any employment for the mainé's trade would be stagnated, riches would be of no advantage to the great, and labour of no service to the poor.

The *Romans*, as historians all allow,  
Sought, in extieme distress, the rural plough;  
*To triumphe!* for the village swain  
Retu'd to be a nobleman \* again.

\* *Cincinnatus*.

## FURTHER THOUGHTS

ON

## AGRICULTURE\*

AT my last *visit*, I took the liberty of mentioning a subject, which I think is not considered with attention proportionate to its importance. Nothing can more fully prove the ingratitude of mankind—a crime often charged upon them, and often denied, than the little regard which the disposers of honorary rewards have paid to *Agriculture*, which is treated as a subject so remote from common life, by all those who do not immediately hold the plough, or give fodder to the ox, that I think there is room to question, whether a great part of mankind has yet been informed that life is sustained by the fruits of the earth. I was once indeed provoked to ask a lady of great eminence for genius *Whether she knew of what bread is made?*

I have already observed, how differently *Agriculture* was considered by the heroes and wise men of the *Roman* commonwealth, and shall now only add, that even after the emperours had made great alteration in the system of life, and taught men to

\* From the *Visiter*, for *March* 1756 p. 111

portion out their esteem to other qualities than usefulness, *Agriculture* still maintained its reputation, and was taught by the polite and elegant *Celsus* among the other arts

The usefulness of *Agriculture* I have already shown, I shall now, therefore, prove its necessity and having before declared, that it produces the chief riches of a nation, I shall proceed to show, that it gives its only riches, the only riches which we can call our own, and of which we need not fear either deprivation or diminution

Of nations, as of individuals, the first blessing is independence Neither the man nor the people can be happy to whom any human power can deny the necessities or conveniencies of life There is no way of living without the need of foreign assistance, but by the product of our own land, improved by our own labour. Every other source of plenty is perishable or casual

Trade and manufactures must be confessed often to enrich countries, and we ourselves are indebted to them for those ships by which we now command the sea, from the equator to the poles, and for those sums with which we have shown ourselves able to arm the nations of the north in defence of regions in the western hemisphere But trade and manufactures, however profitable, must yield to the cultivation of lands in usefulness and dignity.

Commerce, however we may please ourselves with the contrary opinion, is one of the daughters of fortune, inconstant and deceitful as her mother; she chuses her residence where she is least expected, and shifts her abode, when her continuance is in appearance

ance most firmly settled Who can read of the present distresses of the *Genoe* & whose only choice now remaining is, from what monarch they shall solicit protection? Who can see the *Hanseatick* towns in ruins where perhaps the inhabitants do not always equal the number of the houses, but he will say to himself, These are the cities, whose trade enabled them once to give laws to the world, to whose merchants princes sent their jewels in pawn from whose treasuries armies were paid, and navies supplied And who can then forbear to consider trade as a weak and uncertain basis of power and wish to his own country greatness more solid and felicity more durable?

It is apparent that every trading nation flourishes, while it can be said to flourish by the courtesy of others We cannot compel any people to buy from us or to sell to us A thousand accidents may prejudice them in favour of our rivals, the workmen of another nation may labour for less price or some accidental improvement, or natural advantage may procure a just preference to their commodities, as experience has shown, that there is no work of the hands, which at different times, is not best performed in different places

Traffick, even while it continues in its state of prosperity, must owe its success to *Agriculture* the materials of manufacture are the produce of the earth The wool which we weave into cloth, the wood which is formed into cabinets, the metals which are forged into weapons are supplied by nature with the help of art Manufactures, indeed, and profitable manufactures, are sometimes raised from imported

materials, but then we are subjected a second time to the caprice of our neighbours. The natives of *Lombardy* might easily resolve to retain their silk at home, and employ workmen of their own to weave it. And this will certainly be done when they grow wise and industrious, when they have sagacity to discern their true interest, and vigour to pursue it.

Mines are generally considered as the great sources of wealth, and superficial observers have thought the possession of great quantities of precious metals the first national happiness. But *Europe* has long seen, with wonder and contempt, the poverty of *Spain*, who thought himself exempted from the labour of tilling the ground, by the conquest of *Peru*, with its veins of silver. Time, however, has taught even this obstinate and haughty nation, that without *Agriculture* they may indeed be the transmitters of money, but can never be the possessors. They may dig it out of the earth, but must immediately send it away to purchase cloth or bread, and it must at last remain with some people wise enough to sell much, and to buy little; to live upon their own lands, without a wish for those things which nature has denied them.

Mines are themselves of no use, without some kind of *Agriculture*. We have, in our own country, inexhaustible stores of iron, which lie useless in the ore for want of wood. It was never the design of Providence to feed man without his own concurrence: we have from nature only what we cannot provide for ourselves, she gives us wild fruits which art must meliorate, and drossy metals, which labour must refine.

Particular metals are valuable because they are scarce, and they are scarce, because the mines that yield them are emptied in time. But the surface of the earth is more liberal than its caverns. The field, which is this autumn laid naked by the sickle, will be covered in the succeeding summer, by a new harvest, the grass, which the cattle are devouring, shoots up again when they have passed over it.

*Agriculture* therefore, and *Agriculture* alone, can support us without the help of others, in certain plenty and genuine dignity. Whatever we buy from without, the sellers may refuse, whatever we sell, manufactured by art, the purchasers may reject: but, while our ground is covered with corn and cattle, we can want nothing, and if imagination should grow sick of native plenty and call for delicacies or embellishments from other countries, there is nothing which corn and cattle will not purchase.

Our country is, perhaps, beyond all others, productive of things necessary to life. The pine apple thrives better between the tropicks, and better furs are found in the northern regions. But let us not envy these unnecessary privileges. Mankind cannot subsist upon the indulgencies of nature, but must be supported by her more common gifts. They must feed upon bread and be clothed with wool, and the nation that can furnish these universal commodities, may have her ships welcomed at a thousand ports, or sit at home and receive the tribute of foreign countries, enjoy their arts or treasure up their gold.

It is well known to those who have examined the state of other countries, that the vineyards of *France*

are more than equivalent to the mines of *America*; and that one great use of *Indian* gold, and *Peruvian* silver, is to procure the wines of *Champagne* and *Burgundy*. The advantage is indeed always rising on the side of *France*, who will certainly have wines, when *Spain* by a thousand natural or accidental causes, may want silver. But surely the valleys of *England* have more certain stores of wealth. Wines are chosen by caprice, the products of *France* have not always been equally esteemed, but there never was any age, or people, that reckoned bread among superfluities, when once it was known. The price of wheat and barley suffers not any variation, but what is caused by the uncertainty of seasons.

I am far from intending to persuade my countrymen to quit all other employments for that of manuring the ground. I mean only to prove, that we have, at home, all that we can want, and that therefore we need feel no great anxiety about the schemes of other nations for improving their arts, or extending their traffick. But there is no necessity to infer, that we should cease from commerce, before the revolution of things shall transfer it to some other regions! Such vicissitudes the world has often seen, and therefore such we have reason to expect. We hear many clamours of declining trade, which are not, in my opinion, always true, and many imputations of that decline to governors and ministers, which may be sometimes just, and sometimes calumnious. But it is foolish to imagine, that any care or policy can keep commerce at a stand, which almost every nation has enjoyed and lost, and which we must expect to lose as we have long enjoyed it.

There

There is some danger, lest our neglect of *Agriculture* should hasten its departure. Our industry has for many ages been employed in destroying the woods which our ancestors have planted. It is well known that commerce is carried on by ships and that ships are built out of trees, and therefore, when I travel over naked plains, to which tradition has preserved the name of forests or see hills arising on either hand barren and useless I cannot forbear to wonder, how that commerce of which we promise ourselves the perpetuity, shall be continued by our descendants, nor can restrain a sigh, when I think on the time, a time it no great distance when our neighbours may deprive us of our naval influence, by refusing us their timber.

By *Agriculture* only can commerce be perpetuated, and by *Agriculture* alone can we live in plenty without intercourse with other nations. This, therefore is the great art, which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practise, and every inquirer into nature to improve.

THE  
VISION OF THEODORE,  
The HERMIT of TENERIFFE,

FOUND IN HIS CELL.

Printed in the Preceptor, 1748

SON of Perseverance, whoever thou art, whose curiosity has led thee hither, read and be wise. He that now calls upon thee is Theodore, the Hermit of Teneriffe, who in the fifty-seventh year of his retreat left this instruction to mankind, lest his solitary hours should be spent in vain.

I was once what thou art now, a groveller on the earth, and a gazer at the sky, I trafficked and heaped wealth together, I loved and was favoured, I wore the robe of honour and heard the musick of adulation, I was ambitious, and rose to greatness, I was unhappy, and retired. I sought for some time what I at length found here, a place where all real wants might be easily supplied, and where I might not be under the necessity of purchasing the assistance of men by the toleration of their follies. Here I saw fruits and herbs and water, and here determined to wait the hand of death, which I hope, when at last it comes, will fall lightly upon me.

Forty-eight years had I now passed in forgetfulness of all mortal cares, and without any inclination  
to

to wander farther than the necessity of procuring sustenance required, but as I stood one day beholding the rock that overhangs my cell, I found in myself a desire to climb it, and when I was on its top was in the same manner determined to scale the next, till by degrees I conceived a wish to view the summit of the mountain at the foot of which I had so long resided. This motion of my thoughts I endeavoured to suppress, not because it appeared criminal, but because it was new, and all change, not evidently for the better, claims a mind taught by experience to distrust itself. I was often afraid that my heart was deceiving me, that my impatience of confinement arose from some earthly passion and that my ardour to survey the works of nature was only a hidden longing to mingle once again in the scenes of life. I therefore endeavoured to settle my thoughts into their former state but found then distraction every day greater. I was always reproaching myself with the want of happiness within my reach and at last began to question whether it was not laziness rather than caution that restrained me from climbing to the summit of Teneriffe.

I rose therefore before the day, and began my journey up the steep of the mountain, but I had not advanced far, old as I was and burthened with provisions when the day began to shine upon me, the declivities grew more precipitous, and the sand slid from beneath my feet at last, fainting with labour, I arrived at a small plain almost inclosed by rocks and open only to the east. I sat down to rest awhile, in full persuasion, that when I had re-

covered my strength I should proceed on my design; but when once I had tasted ease, I found many reasons against disturbing it. The branches spread a shade over my head, and the gales of spring wafted odours to my bosom.

As I sat thus, forming alternately excuses for delay, and resolutions to go forward, an irresistible heaviness suddenly surprised me. I laid my head upon the bank, and resigned myself to sleep. When I awoke I heard the sound as of the flight of eagles, and a being of more than human dignity stood before me. While I was deliberating how to address him, he took me by the hand with an air of kindness, and asked me solemnly but without severity, "Theodore, whither art thou going?" "I am climbing, answered I, to the top of the mountain, to enjoy a more extensive prospect of the works of nature." "Attend first, said he, to the prospect which this place affords, and what thou dost not understand I will explain. I am one of the benevolent beings who watch over the children of the dust, to preserve them from those evils which will not ultimately terminate in good, and which they do not, by their own faults, bring upon themselves. Look round therefore without fear observe, contemplate, and be instructed."

Encouraged by this assurance, I looked and beheld a mountain higher than Teneriffe, to the summit of which the human eye could never reach; when I had tired myself with gazing upon its height, I turned my eyes towards its foot, which I could easily discover, but was amazed to find it without foundation, and placed inconceivably in emptiness

emptiness and darkness Thus I stood terrified and confused above were tracks inscrutable, and below was total vacancy But my protector, with a voice of admonition cried out, Theodore, be not affrighted but raise thy eyes again the Mountain of Existence is before thee survey it and be wise

I then looked with more deliberate attention and observed the bottom of the mountain to be a gentle rise and overspread with flowers, the middle to be more steep embarrassed with crags and interrupted by precipices, over which hung branches loaded with fruits, and among which were scattered palaces and bowers The tracts which my eye could reach nearest the top were generally barren but there were among the clefts of the rocks a few hardy ever greens, which though they did not give much pleasure to the sight or smell, yet seemed to cheer the labour and facilitate the steps of those who were clambering among them

Then, beginning to examine more minutely the different parts, I observed at a great distance a multitude of both sexes issuing into view from the bottom of the mountain Their first actions I could not accurately discern, but as they every moment approached nearer I found that they amused themselves with gathering flowers under the superintendence of a modest virgin in a white robe, who seemed not over solicitous to confine them to any settled place or certain track, for she knew that the whole ground was smooth and solid, and that they could not easily be hurt or bewildered When, as it often happened, they plucked a thistle for a flower, Inno-  
cence,

cence, so was she called, would smile at the mistake. Happy, said I, are they who are under so gentle a government, and yet are safe. But I had no opportunity to dwell long on the consideration of their felicity, for I found that Innocence continued her attendance but a little way, and seemed to consider only the flowery bottom of the mountain as her proper province. Those whom she abandoned scarcely knew that they were left, before they perceived themselves in the hands of Education, a nymph more severe in her aspect and imperious in her commands, who confined them to certain paths, in their opinion too narrow and too rough. These they were continually solicited to leave, by Appetite, whom Education could never fright away, though she sometimes awed her to such timidity, that the effects of her presence were scarcely perceptible. Some went back to the first part of the mountain, and seemed desirous of continuing busied in plucking flowers, but were no longer guarded by Innocence; and such as Education could not force back, proceeded up the mountain by some new road, in which they were seldom seen, and scarcely ever regarded.

As Education led her troop up the mountain, nothing was more observable than that she was frequently giving them cautions to beware of Habits; and was calling out to one or another at every step, that a Habit was ensnaring them, that they would be under the dominion of Habit before they perceived their danger: and that those whom Habit should once subdue, had little hope of regaining their liberty.

Of this caution, so frequently repeated, I was very solicitous to know the reason, when my protector directed my regard to a troop of pygmies which appeared to walk silently before those that were climbing the mountain, and each to smooth the way before her follower. I found that I had missed the notice of them before both because they were so minute as not easily to be discerned, and because they grew every moment nearer in their colour to the objects with which they were surrounded. As the followers of Education did not appear to be sensible of the presence of these dangerous associates, or, ridiculing their diminutive size did not think it possible that human beings should ever be brought into subjection by such feeble enemies they generally heard her precepts of vigilance with wonder and, when they thought her eye withdrawn treated them with contempt. Nor could I myself think her cautions so necessary as her frequent inculcations seemed to suppose till I observed that each of these petty beings held secretly a chain in her hand with which she prepared to bind those whom she found within her power. Yet these Habits under the eye of Education went quietly forward and seemed very little to increase in bulk or strength, for though they were always willing to join with Appetite, yet when Education kept them apart from her they would very punctually obey command, and make the narrow roads in which they were confined easier and smoother.

It was observable, that their stature was never at a stand, but continually growing or decreasing yet not always in the same proportions nor could I for  
bear

bear to express my admiration, when I saw in how much less time they generally gained than lost bulk. Though they grew slowly in the road of Education, it might however be perceived that they grew; but if they once deviated at the call of Appetite, their stature soon became gigantick, and their strength was such, that Education pointed out to her tribe many that were led in chains by them, whom she could never more rescue from their slavery. She pointed them out, but with little effect, for all her pupils appeared confident of their own superiority to the strongest Habit, and some seemed in secret to regret that they were hindered from following the triumph of Appetite.

It was the peculiar artifice of Habit not to suffer her power to be felt at first. Those whom she led, she had the address of appearing only to attend, but was continually doubling her chains upon her companions, which were so slender in themselves, and so silently fastened, that while the attention was engaged by other objects, they were not easily perceived. Each link grew tighter as it had been longer worn, and when by continual additions they became so heavy as to be felt, they were very frequently too strong to be broken.

When Education had proceeded in this manner to the part of the mountain where the declivity began to grow craggy, she resigned her charge to two powers of superior aspect. The meaner of them appeared capable of presiding in senates, or governing nations, and yet watched the steps of the other with the most anxious attention, and was visibly confounded and perplexed if ever she suffered her  
regard

regard to be drawn away. The other seemed to approve her submission as pleasing, but with such a condescension as plainly showed that she claimed it as due. And indeed so great was her dignity and sweetness, that he who would not reverence, must not behold her.

"Theodore," said my protector, "be fearless and beware, approach the Power whose dominion extends to all the remaining part of the Mountain of Existence. I trembled and ventured to address the inferior nymph, whose eyes though piercing and awful, I was not able to sustain. Bright Power," said I, "by whatever name it is lawful to address thee, tell me, thou who presidest here, on what condition thy protection will be granted." "It will be granted," said she, "only to obedience. I am Reason of all subordinate beings, the noblest and the greatest, who, if thou wilt receive my laws, will reward thee like the rest of my votaries, by conducting thee to Religion."

Charmed by her voice and aspect, I professed my readiness to follow her. She then presented me to her mistress, who looked upon me with tenderness. I bowed before her, and she smiled.

When Education delivered up those for whose happiness she had been so long solicitous, she seemed to expect that they should express some gratitude for her care, or some regret at the loss of that protection which she had hitherto afforded them. But it was easy to discover, by the alacrity which broke out at her departure, that her presence had been long displeasing, and that she had been teaching those who felt in themselves no want of instruction. They all agreed in rejoicing that they should no longer be subject

subject to her caprices, or disturbed by her documents, but should be now under the direction only of Reason, to whom they made no doubt of being able to recommend themselves by a steady adherence to all her precepts. Reason counselled them, at their first entrance upon her province, to enlist themselves among the votaries of Religion, and informed them, that if they trusted to her alone, they would find the same fate with her other admirers, whom she had not been able to secure against Appetites and Passions, and who, having been seized by Habits in the regions of Desire, had been dragged away to the caverns of Despair. Her admonition was vain, the greater number declared against any other direction, and doubted not but by her superintendency they should climb with safety up the Mountain of Existence.

“ My power,” said Reason, “ is to advise, not to  
 “ compel, I have already told you the danger of  
 “ your choice. The path seems now plain and even,  
 “ but there are asperities and pitfalls, over which  
 “ Religion only can conduct you. Look upwards,  
 “ and you perceive a mist before you settled upon  
 “ the highest visible part of the mountain, a mist by  
 “ which my prospect is terminated, and which is  
 “ pierced only by the eyes of Religion. Beyond it  
 “ are the temples of Happiness, in which those who  
 “ climb the precipice by her direction, after the toil  
 “ of their pilgrimage, repose for ever. I know not  
 “ the way, and therefore can only conduct you to  
 “ a better guide. Pride has sometimes reproached  
 “ me with the narrowness of my view, but, when  
 “ she endeavoured to extend it, could only show me,  
 “ below the mist, the bowers of Content; even they

“ vanished as I fixed my eyes upon them, and those  
 “ whom she persuaded to travel towards them were  
 “ inclined by Habits, and ingulfed by Despair  
 “ cruel tyrant, whose caverns are beyond the dark-  
 “ ness on the right side and on the left, from whose  
 “ prisons none can escape, and whom I cannot  
 “ teach you to avoid ’

Such was the declaration of Reason to those who demanded her protection. Some that recollected the dictates of Education finding them now seconded by another authority, submitted with reluctance to the strict decree, and engaged themselves among the followers of Religion, who were distinguished by the uniformity of their march though many of them were women and by their continual endeavours to move upwards without appearing to regard the prospects which at every step courted their attention.

All those who determined to follow either Reason or Religion, were continually importuned to forsake the road, sometimes by Passions and sometimes by Appetites, of whom both had reason to boast the success of their artifices, for so many were drawn into by paths, that any way was more populous than the right. The attacks of the Appetites were more impetuous those of the Passions longer continued. The Appetites turned their followers directly from the true way but the Passions marched at first in a path nearly in the same direction with that of Reason and Religion, but deviated by slow degrees, till at last they entirely changed their course. Appetite drew aside the dull, and Passion the

sprightly

sprightly Of the Appetites, Lust was the strongest; and of the Passions, Vanity. The most powerful assault was to be feared, when a Passion and an Appétite joined their enticements, and the path of Reason was best followed, when a Passion called to one side, and an Appétite to the other.

These seducers had the greatest success upon the followers of Reason, over whom they scarcely ever failed to prevail, except when they counteracted one another. They had not the same triumphs over the votaries of Religion, for though they were often led aside for a time, Religion commonly recalled them by her emissary Conscience, before Habit had time to enchain them. But they that professed to obey Reason, if once they forsook her seldom returned, for she had no messenger to summon them but Pride, who generally betrayed her confidence, and employed all her skill to support Passion, and if ever she did her duty, was found unable to prevail, if Habit had interposed.

I soon found that the great danger to the followers of Religion was only from Habit, every other power was easily resisted, nor did they find any difficulty when they inadvertently quitted her, to find her again by the direction of Conscience, unless they had given time to Habit to draw her chain behind them, and bar up the way by which they had wandered. Of some of those, the condition was justly to be pitied, who turned at every call of Conscience, and tried, but without effect, to burst the chains of Habit: saw Religion walking forward at a distance, saw her with reverence, and longed to join

join her, but were, whenever they approached her, withheld by Habit, and languished in sordid bondage, which they could not escape, though they scorned and hated it

It was evident that the Habits were so far from growing weaker by these repeated contests, that if they were not totally overcome, every struggle enlarged their bulk and increased their strength, and a Habit opposed and victorious was more than twice as strong as before the contest. The manner in which those who were weary of their tyranny, endeavoured to escape from them, appeared by the event to be generally wrong, they tried to loose their chains one by one, and to retreat by the same degrees as they advanced, but before the deliverance was completed Habit always threw new chains upon her fugitive, nor did any escape her but those who, by an effort sudden and violent, burst their shackles at once, and left her at a distance, and even of these many, rushing too precipitately forward, and hindered by their terrors from stopping where they were safe, were fatigued with their own vehemence, and resigned themselves again to that power from whom an escape must be so dearly bought, and whose tyranny was little felt, except when it was resisted

Some however there always were, who when they found Habit prevailing over them called upon Reason or Religion for assistance, each of them willingly came to the succour of her suppliant, but neither with the same strength, nor the same success. Habit, insolent with her power, would often

presume to parley with Reason, and offer to loose some of her chains if the rest might remain. To this Reason, who was never certain of victory, frequently consented, but always found her concession destructive, and saw the captive led away by Habit to his former slavery. Religion never submitted to treaty, but held out her hand with certainty of conquest, and if the captive to whom she gave it did not quit his hold, always led him away in triumph, and placed him in the direct path to the Temple of Happiness, where Reason never failed to congratulate his deliverance, and encourage his adherence to that power to whose timely succour he was indebted for it.

When the traveller was again placed in the road of Happiness, I saw Habit again gliding before him, but reduced to the stature of a dwarf, without strength and without activity; but when the Passions or Appetites, which had before seduced him, made their approach, Habit would on a sudden start into size, and with unexpected violence push him towards them. The wretch, thus impelled on one side, and allured on the other, too frequently quitted the road of Happiness, to which, after his second deviation from it, he rarely returned but, by a timely call upon Religion, the force of Habit was eluded, her attacks grew fainter, and at last her correspondence with the enemy was intirely destroyed. She then began to employ those restless faculties in compliance with the power which she could not overcome, and as she grew again in stature and in strength, cleared

cleaned away the asperities of the road to Happiness

From this road I could not easily withdraw my attention, because all who travelled it appeared cheerful and satisfied, and the farther they proceeded, the greater appeared their alacrity and the stronger their conviction of the wisdom of their guide. Some who had never deviated but by short excursions had Habit in the middle of their passage vigorously supporting them and driving off their Appetites and Passions which attempted to interrupt their progress. Others who had entered this road late, or had long forsaken it, were toiling on without her help at least and commonly against her endeavours. But I observed when they approached to the barren top, that few were able to proceed without some support from Habit and that they, whose Habits were strong, advanced towards the mists with little emotion, and entered them at last with calmness and confidence, after which, they were seen only by the eye of Religion and though Reason looked after them with the most earnest curiosity, she could only obtain a faint glimpse, when her mistress, to enlarge her prospect, raised her from the ground. Reason however discerned that they were safe, but Religion saw that they were happy.

“Now Theodore,” said my Protector, “withdraw thy view from the regions of obscurity, and see the fate of those who when they were dismissed by Education would admit no direction but that of Reason. Survey their wanderings, and be wise.”

I looked then upon the road of Reason, which was indeed, so far as it reached, the same with that of Religion, nor had Reason discovered it but by her instruction. Yet when she had once been taught it, she clearly saw that it was right, and Pride had sometimes incited her to declare that she discovered it herself, and persuaded her to offer herself as a guide to Religion: whom after many vain experiments she found it her highest privilege to follow. Reason was however at last well instructed in part of the way, and appeared to teach it with some success, when her precepts were not misrepresented by Passion, or her influence overborn by Appetite. But neither of these enemies was she able to resist. When Passion seized upon her votaries, she seldom attempted opposition: she seemed indeed to contend with more vigour against Appetite, but was generally overwheeled in the contest, and if either of her opponents had confederated with Habit, her authority was wholly at an end. When Habit endeavoured to captivate the votaries of Religion, she grew by slow degrees, and gave time to escape; but in seizing the unhappy followers of Reason, she proceeded as one that had nothing to fear, and enlarged her size, and doubled her chains without intermission, and without reserve.

Of those who forsook the directions of Reason, some were led aside by the whispers of Ambition, who was perpetually pointing to stately palaces, situated on eminences on either side, recounting the delights of affluence, and boasting the security of power. They were easily persuaded to follow her,

her, and Habit quickly threw her chains upon them; they were soon convinced of the folly of their choice, but few of them attempted to return. Ambition led them forward from precipice to precipice, where many fell and were seen no more. Those that escaped were, after a long series of hazards, generally delivered over to Avarice, and enlisted by her in the service of Tyranny, where they continued to heap up gold till their patrons or their heirs pushed them headlong at last into the caverns of Despair.

Others were inticed by Intemperance to rumble in search of those fruits that hung over the rocks and filled the air with their fragrance. I observed, that the Habits which hovered about these soon grew to an enormous size, nor were there any who less attempted to return to Reason, or sooner sunk into the gulfs that lay before them. When these first quitted the road, Reason looked after them with a frown of contempt, but had little expectations of being able to reclaim them, for the bowl of intoxication was of such qualities as to make them lose all regard but for the present moment, neither Hope nor Fear could enter their retreats, and Habit had so absolute a power, that even Conscience, if Religion had employed her in their favour, would not have been able to force an entrance.

There were others whose crime it was rather to neglect Reason than to disobey her, and who retreated from the heat and tumult of the way, not to the bowers of Intemperance, but to the maze of Indolence.

Indolence ' They had this peculiarity in their condition, that they were always in sight of the road of Reason, always wishing for her presence, and always resolving to return to-morrow. In these was most eminently conspicuous the subtlety of Habit, who hung imperceptible shackles upon them, and was every moment leading them farther from the road, which they always imagined that they had the power of reaching. They wandered on from one double of the labyrinth to another with the chains of Habit hanging secretly upon them, till, as they advanced, the flowers grew paler, and the scents fainter, they proceeded in their dreary march without pleasure in their progress, yet without power to return, and had this aggravation above all others, that they were criminal but not delighted. The drunkard for a time laughed over his wine, the ambitious man triumphed in the miscarriage of his rival, but the captives of Indolence had neither superiority nor merriment. Discontent lowered in their looks, and Sadness hovered round their shades, yet they crawled on reluctant and gloomy, till they arrived at the depth of the recess, vailed only with poppies and nightshade, where the dominion of Indolence terminates, and the hopeless wanderer is delivered up to Melancholy. the chains of Habit are rivetted for ever; and Melancholy, having tortured her prisoner for a time, consigns him at last to the cruelty of Despair.

While I was musing on this miserable scene, my Protector called out to me, "Remember, Theodore, " and be wise, and let not Habit prevail against  
 3 " thee."

“ thee ’ I started and beheld myself surrounded by the rocks of Teneriffe, the birds of light were singing in the trees, and the glances of the morning darted upon me

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.